



Visit to Fr. Tom Welu in Balugo

Fr. Jose Eloja, MI



to welcome them. It was a delightful meeting because it has been a while since the last time they saw Fr. Tom. It was also the first time for the three confreres to come and see his place. Then they were led to the house a few meters drive-in from the old clinic along the main road.

One has to make a few steps on the stairs to go up and see the inside of the house. The tent that has been a home of Fr. Tom for 30 years can be found there too. Then, the three visitors were introduced to the people who have been helping Fr. Tom in his work as missionary and also looking after him and the property as well. They prepared lunch for the distinguished guests. With informal conversations over the simple but delicious lunch, the

Balugo is one of the barangays of the municipality of Sibulan in the province of Negros Oriental, Philippines. Sibulan is bordered to the south by the provincial capital of Dumaguete City. For over 30 years, Balugo has been home to the Camillian missionary, Fr. Thomas 'Tom' Welu.

On Nov. 20, 2017, Fr. Jose Eloja, Fr. Rodel Enriquez, and Fr. Gabriel Garcia, had the chance to visit Fr. Tom in Balugo. Fr. Tom prepared a tarpaulin with the names of the three confreres written on it to welcome them. The banner made it easy for them to find the location in the wide mountainous area. When they arrived, Fr. Tom was sitting in front of the old clinic where he patiently waited



guests updated Fr. Tom about what is happening in the Province since the new administration took over. Fr. Tom also shared his simple life-experience especially as a missionary for many years in Balugo. Now that he has retired from active missionary work in the clinic and in the church, he still wants to stay in Balugo because he loves so much the people there and the place itself. He even wants to be buried beside the church that he built in that barangay.

From the humble beginnings, the church building that Fr. Tom founded, with the help of the local folks and funding from his benefactors overseas especially from the US, is now a beautiful concrete church building. It is just more

(continued on page 11)



Time flies very quickly. It seems as if it was only yesterday that we entered the year 2017 and yet, whether we are prepared or not, the year 2018 is ushered in! We give thanks to the almighty God by whose guidance and protection has brought us thus far.

As we come to the end of the Christmas season and resolutions and planning for the New Year are set in motion, the usual practice of looking back on the year is once again a worthy thing to do. We may also look back on ourselves, be it as individuals or as a community, reflecting and evaluating our performance in the light of our Christian life and mission.

It is worth mentioning some highlights in the Province during the year 2017. The Province entered the year with the inauguration and blessing of the Br. Renato Marinello Memorial Building in Luodong, Taiwan. Held on Jan. 21, the occasion was graced by the Papal Chargé d'affaires, Msgr. Sladan Cosic; Superior General, Fr. Leocir Pessini; Provincial Superior, Fr. Rolando Fernandez; and two other guest-Camillians from Italy and Thailand, Fr. Mario Didone and Fr. Giovanni Contarin, respectively. Another major event that occurred in the Province was the Extraordinary Provincial Chapter held on Feb. 6–10 at St. Camillus Pastoral Care Center, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. A total of 24 representatives from Indonesia, Australia, Taiwan, and Philippines participated as capitulars. Then on April 10, the Superior General, Fr. Leocir Pessini, appointed me as Provincial Superior of the Philippine Province. My inauguration and commissioning as new Provincial Superior was held on May 1 (feast of St. Joseph the worker) at St. Scholastica's Retreat Center in Tagaytay City during the annual retreat of the Camillian religious in the Philippines. With the election of the new set of Provincial Councilors on the same month, the term of the new Provincial administration has begun. In the following month, the new set of Delegation Council in Taiwan was appointed.

Last May 23, the dialysis center at St. Camillus Med-

ical Center in Pasig City was inaugurated. Then on the feast day of St. Camillus, the new Theologate house in (Mauwere) Flores, Indonesia was also inaugurated. In the same month, the Province was blessed with the ordination to the priesthood of two Vietnamese religious assigned in Taiwan and with the perpetual profession of one religious in the Philippines who also got ordained deacon a week after. Around this period, the reshuffling of assignments of the religious and the installation of local superiors also took place.

During the spring season in the countries down under, two important events also occurred. In New Zealand, the recognition and induction of officers of the Lay Camillian Family was held in the chapel of North Shore Hospital on Sept 3. Two days later, the LCF-NZ was formally presented to the bishop of the Diocese of Auckland. Then a few days later in Australia, the established Lay Camillian Family was also formally presented to the bishop of the Diocese of Parramatta. On Nov. 24–26, the different chapters of LCF in the Philippines held a national convention wherein a new set of national officers was elected.

Recently, the Provincial and the Provincial Councilors had a meeting with the local superiors of the different religious communities in the Philippines. Then on the following day (Dec. 9), the General Assembly and the Christmas party of the religious in the Philippines was held. All these were just some of the important events that happened in the Province. There were still many other events and things that we have to thank God for.

I would like also to seize the opportunity to thank everyone who put in so much efforts in order for us to celebrate the events appreciably. I personally thank the confreres for their cooperation wherever they are in the past year and I hope the same or even better continues in the year 2018. Let us continue to be challenged to bring Christ and his love, mercy and compassion to the sick.

Happy New Year!

POSTCARDS FROM TAIWAN

Fr. Giuseppe Didonè, MI

Nov. 3: The 10th anniversary celebration of the opening of the hospice at St. Mary's Hospital. At 10:00am there was a religious ceremony followed by commemorative speeches. The hospice is considered the pearl of the hospital, even if it is passive (does not generate any income for the hospital).



Nov. 4: The 30th anniversary of the St. Camillus Center for Handicapped in Lotung. A marathon was organized with more than 1000 participants. Many articles were on sale to generate funds.



Nov. 7: A special day for the hospital of Lotung. About 50 Chinese doctors working in America returned to visit St. Mary's Hospital for an exchange of experiences.



Nov. 16: Feast of Our Lady, Health of the Sick. At 5:30 in the afternoon the first thanksgiving Mass were celebrated by the two new Vietnamese Camillian priests in the chapel at St. Mary's. The following day, they celebrated the Holy Mass in St. Camillus Church, which was upgraded by the bishop as Holy Shrine of St. Camillus.



Dec. 2: The lighting of the Christmas tree in all our institutions, a symbol of the light brought by Jesus Christ.



Dec. 9: The 53rd anniversary of the Nursing College dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of Mary.



Dec. 11: We went out to sing Christmas carols



Dec. 24: The various celebrations began. In the new sanctuary of St. Camillus, for the first time there was Midnight Mass with the participation of children from the Center for Handicapped and the elderly. One student received the First Communion.



Dec. 26: Six Italian Camillian religious who have been in Taiwan for more than 40 years, namely, Fr. Giovanni Rizzi, Fr. Celestino Rizzi, Fr. Antonio Didone, Fr. Giuseppe Didone, Fr. Felice Chec and Br. Davide Cattaneo received the citizenship identity card from the Republic of China.

*It is my desire to follow
my beloved Crucified Lord
in every place, moment and adversity.*

ST. CAMILLUS DE LELLIS

4TH LCF PHILIPPINES NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dr. Roderico B. de Leon, LCF Pasig Chapter



The 4th National Convention of the Lay Camillian Family of the Philippines was held last Nov. 24–27, 2017 at the St. Camillus Pastoral Care Center in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, with the theme: Together in One Vision, Mission and Charism—Compassionate Service to the Sick. This was attended by different chapters namely: Calbayog (10), Davao (16), Makati (9), Mati (4), and Pasig from St. Camillus Medical Center and ICP Karangalan Pasig (5).

LCF Mati Chapter Head Olive Jimeno conducted the opening and invocation while LCF National President Guillie Apigo introduced the 44 delegates. LCF Spiritual Adviser Fr. Renato 'Nato' Maliwat gave the welcome remarks and the Philippine Camillian Provincial Superior Fr. Jojo Eloja, delivered an inspirational message.

Topics discussed at the convention were the following: "Camillian Spirituality" by Fr. Marcelo 'Bong' Pamintuan and "Death & Dying Ethical Principle" by Fr. Rodel Enriquez. These were followed by the President's Report discussing the details of the LCF Strategic Planning held last March 28, 2014. Details of the Philippine LCF Statutes, Vision, Mission, Goals, Core Values, LCF Logo, and the General Assembly of the World Lay Camillian Family held last May 18–23, 2014 at Motinella, Vicenza, Italy were presented. This was followed by a presentation of activities by the different Local Chapter Heads. Afterwards, Fr. John Paul Alvarado conducted the Strategic Planning, and as outgoing Spiritual Adviser, Fr. Gabriel Garcia, delivered a farewell message to conclude the activities of the afternoon.



OUR LADY OF LA PAZ: Christmas Message to OLLPP

Fr. Renante Sentillas, MI



***“FAITH, FAMILY and FRIENDS:
these are the grandest parts of
the Christmas blessings
in our hearts.”***

I read this caption in one of the runners displayed inside the gift store at the Redemptorist Renewal Center here in Tucson, Arizona where I am staying for my Sabbatical Course. Seeing it almost every day for the past three weeks now, I realized the wisdom of such a statement.

Faith and Family and Friends are the three essential gifts that Christmas can give us, if we are truly serious about celebrating Christmas meaningfully. Our Faith in Jesus, the very gift of the Loving Father to all of us, is the reason for this season of giving gifts to others. Our respective Family, before anybody else, is the first venue of the gift-giving of love, care and mercy. And our Friends are the concrete extensions of the giving of the gifts of

forgiveness and compassion to others. What wonderful blessings on Christmas!

Indeed, they are blessings, but they are also challenges.

We are called more than ever to: 1) deepen our Faith in Jesus who loves us unconditionally more than our family and friends do; 2) value our Family, no matter how dysfunctional and divided it may be; after all we were given only one biological family by God; 3) nurture relationships with Friends, even though you cannot be sure that they will become your faithful or selfish friends along the way.

Remember these **3 Fs** of Christmas: **Faith, Family and Friends**. Such are the blessings that thrill our hearts with the grandeur of Christmas.

The delegates participated in the celebration of the anticipated mass held before dinner and fellowship night. The theme of the night was “retro” which showcased bits and pieces from the 60s, 70s, and 80s. The night was made more fun and enjoyable with the retro-inspired presentations of the participating local chapters.



The election of new officers for the years 2018-2020 was held on the last day of the convention. A big congratulations to the newly elected Lay Camillian Family National officers: President—Maria Ruby Cordova Lontoc from Makati chapter, Vice President—Dr. Roderico B. de Leon from Pasig chapter, Secretary—Lotes H. Jason from Davao chapter, Treasurer—Reynaldo B. Demit from Calbayog chapter, and Auditor Florentina C. Magpusao from Mati chapter.

An inspirational message from Fr. Luigi Galvani, one of the LCF Philippines organizers was read by Fr. Nato. This was followed by closing remarks by Fr. Nato and Fr. Bong concluding the whole event.

LCF Philippines would like to extend its appreciation and gratitude to the outgoing LCF National officers headed by Ms. Guillie Apigo of Davao chapter for a job well done. A big thanks also to emcees LCF members Romeo Obillo and Lotes Jason, Fr. Dan Cancino, Br. Almar Roman and Br. Benjie Ang for extending their support to the event.

ST. CAMILLUS HOSPITAL MATI: 3rd Quarter Activities

Sr. Cleofe M. Macalino, MI

The third quarter of this year has been a grace-filled moment for St. Camillus Hospital of Mati. On Sept. 11, 2017, the newly renovated and relocated offices of the Human Resources, Quality Assurance, Nursing and Medical Directors and conference room were blessed by the hospital chaplain, Fr. Rolando Fernandez in the presence of the hospital director, Fr. Roderick Tampis, other directors, section heads and employees.

Last Sept. 21 and 22, 2017 the management of SCHM had a 2-day seminar-workshop entitled "Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in the Hospital Setting" held at the new conference room. Dr. Lydia Ann Labro, hospital administrator of St. Camillus Medical Center in Pasig City, was the resource speaker. It was an honor to have an eloquent and prolific speaker like her who shared her knowledge and expertise to the management of the hospital. All eyes and ears were on her as she eloquently facilitated the seminar/workshop that had the following objectives: to improve the processes and methodologies employed by the organization; to create a positive work climate, an atmosphere of trust and confidence among employees; and lastly, to effect change and increase efficiency in the delivery of quality service and care to its clients.

In her lecture, Dr. Labro underscored the value of teamwork among all levels of employees and that all team members are valuable. It is important that the members know the purpose of the project and that the efforts and contributions of team members are acknowledged



and recognized, thus encouraging investment, commitment and compliance.

Then the following month the employees of the hospital had their annual company outing. Last Oct. 7 and 14 they went in two batches at the Thunder's Place Beach Resort in Dahican, City of Mati. The outing was a respite from the hurly-burly of daily routine. The stunning scenery and the rhythmic pulse of sea waves calmed and invigorated the spirit. Indeed, it was a pleasant place to be at some moments in one's lifetime.



Dr. Lydia Labro spoke about Continuous Quality Improvement in the Hospital Setting

LCF PAKISTAN: Sharing God's Joy with the Sick

The Lay Camillian Family-Pakistan organized a simple Christmas outreach program in which Miss Asia Aslam and members of the LCF visited the sick people in their homes and gave food items and clothes. This simple gesture of sharing was indeed touching as these people, mostly "housebound" living in the darkness, saw great light. Christmas gives us a message to share light and joy to those who are in need. The LCF members put in their own little resources, especially Miss Asia and Mr. Aslam, who mainly sponsored the activity. They visited the sick in the nearby villages and also prayed over and wished them Merry Christmas.

LCF Pakistan also sends Christmas Greetings to all the Camillians and fellow LCF members.



Miss Asia visiting the old sickly woman, one of the beneficiaries of LCF Christmas outreach 2017.



SCH-Mati Annual Strategic Planning Activity



The St. Camillus Hospital of Mati management team showed their dazzling smiles after the 4-day Strategic Planning Activity.

Aiming for consistent delivery of quality healthcare services to the people of Davao Oriental, the management team of St. Camillus Hospital of Mati led by Fr. Roderick R. Tampis has been making headway in bringing about greater progress to the institution through the Annual Strategic Planning Activity held last Oct. 24-27, 2017. This year's 4-day planning activity was facilitated by Fr. John Paul Alvarado who shared his planning expertise through meaningful inputs and insights and graced the event with his jam-packed icebreakers.

Guided by the values and charism of St. Camillus de

Lellis, the activity set forth with a review of the present hospital vision, mission, goals and core values as springboard for the formulation of future plans and undertakings. The participants were grouped according to the similarity of services they contribute to the entirety of hospital operation and respectively worked for perspectives including leadership and management, continuum of care, financial sustainability and advertising and promotion.

A well-thought Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat (SWOT) Analysis ensured the planning activity will yield plans and courses of action that are relevant to the existential challenges of the institution, both with its internal processes and external dealings. Additionally, the activity served as an interactive venue for the management team to work more cohesively in identifying service delivery gaps and decide for more effective actions.

"The good thing about the activity is that we hurdled together through the process and came up with a shared understanding of the results (plans)," said Ms. Bernido, the nursing director. This is backed by the team members who affirmed that the activity supplied them with deeper understanding about strategic planning per se, better appreciation of institutional direction, and rekindled enthusiasms to think big and do more for the institution.

The team is set to carry out their plans anew and monitor their progress starting December 2017 until the end of year 2019. – Allan Albacite, RN

CAMILLIAN DELEGATION OF INDONESIA

Fr. Luigi Galvani, MI

RUTENG: 11 NEW ASPIRANTS PINNED WITH THE "RED CROSS"



The group of the aspirants together with Frs. Luigi, Mushtaq and Ignasius, the rector of our Bl. Enrico Formation Center in Ruteng

LAST Nov. 07, 2017, during the Sunday Eucharistic celebration, Fr. Luigi Galvani, the Delegation Superior, officially welcomed the 11 aspirants in the community and pinned them with a small red cross as a sign of their belonging to the Blessed Enrico Formation Center community. The 11 new candidates were also very happy to receive an official mandate for their weekly apostolate in the nursing home Center for Handicap in the village of Cancar, an institution run by the Sisters of the Holy Spirit.

MAUMERE: FUTURE CANDIDATES TO NOVITIATE



The five candidates during a special spiritual exercise

THE fourth year seminarians (Robertus, Gema, Fransiskus, Konstantinus, and Gabriel) together with Fr. Mushtaq Anjum, spent a half-day spiritual journey at the Calvary, a retreat place of the Passionist Fathers, located in the mountainous area of Nilo. While there, Fr. Mushtaq helped them with some special exercises to reflect on their vocation and the joy to follow Christ in the Camillian way.

VOCATION PROMOTION CAMPAIGN



FR. CYRELUS Andi who recently returned from Rome with a doctorate degree in Moral Theology, was appointed as a Vocation Promoter of the Indonesian Camillian Delegation. He initiated his new task going to the school of Mataloko.

It was there that, 16 years ago, he met the first Camillian religious coming from the Philippines and he was inspired together with other six companions (among them, Frs. Alfons Oles, Avenisius Harung and Ignasius Sibar) to join the Camillian Order and to go to Manila for his formation.

Coincidentally, during the short stay in his Alma Mater in Mataloko last Nov. 8, 2017, Fr. Andi was happy to meet the director (see photo) who, at that time, was his classmate. This naturally facilitated his task in convincing some applicants to join the Camillians for the next school year.

A second vocation campaign of Fr. Andi was conducted on Dec. 2-5, 2017 in the island of Sumba. Fr. Andi reached the island via Bali through a one-hour flight. It was the first time for him to go there for a vocation promotion. In the island he was welcomed by a diocesan priest with whom he studied in Rome. Naturally, this facilitated the encounter with several students of the different schools who could be the next first candidates to our seminary from that island.

SEMINAR ON "STROKE AND HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE"



Our seminarians during the conference

ON the occasion of the "World Stroke Day" last Oct. 29, 2017, our 50 seminarians participated in a seminar on Stroke and High Blood Pressure organized by the Dr. Asep and his wife.

During the three-hour event, all the participants were greatly attentive on the interesting topics that were well presented. Seminars of such kind are part of the specific health education program taken by our seminarians during the school year.

CAMILLIAN FORMATORS' MEETING

INTERNATIONAL
MEETING OF
CAMILLIAN
FORMATORS AND
VOCATION
ANIMATORS

*The Camillian promotion
of vocation and formation in
harmony with the signs of the
times and new needs in order to
build a future of Hope*



ROME 12 - 18 OCTOBER 2017

The International Meeting of Camillian Formators and Vocation Animators held last Oct. 12–18, 2017 in Rome, Italy was attended by about 50 delegates representing 41 countries around the world. Among the attendees were confreres from the Philippine Province, namely, Fr. Angel Crisostomo; Fr. Wilson Peñaranda; Fr. Henry Angupa II (Taiwan Delegation); and Fr. Alfons Oles (Indonesian Delegation).

The conference's primary objective was "to achieve an updating and revitalization of our visions, actions and instruments in the field of the promotion of vocations and Camillian formation."

In keeping up with the present realities and needs in formation houses, the organizers under the Secretariat for Formation called forth the meeting to update the Rules of Formation of the Order, which was one of the specific objectives.

Keynote speakers were Fr. Pascual Chavez Villanueva, SDB, a former Superior General of the Salesians of Don Bosco and Fr. Matthew Vattamattam, CMF, current Superior General of the Claretian congregation.

Fr. Pascual talked about "Young People and Consecrated Life Today," the so-called millennials and how they are different now from older generations.

Fr. Matthew, on the other hand, spoke about "Vocational Discernment in an Intercultural World."

When asked for reactions or reflections about the conference, Fr. Angel has these to say:

1. Time is a constraint in reviewing all articles of formation. That is why all participants were grouped into 5 (according to spoken language) and divided among themselves the 100 plus articles on formation for discussion, review and proposed amendments. Assigned to his group were Formation on Temporary Professed.
2. When all confreres do things together, that is "very religious." While the articles can be updated by experts on Canon Law and Formation and just cascade them down to the formation houses, instead the confreres painstakingly tackled and discussed each article. And the humility there is that

"we cannot really solve everything because after all, God is the ultimate formator."

3. The youth of today need "accompaniment." While many say millennials today are lazy and self-ish with a sense of entitlement, it is not their fault as they were brought up that way by their families. But as one speaker said, this generation's youth upholds what is fair and just, and wants to be closer to God, so they need spiritual direction.
4. There should be preparation or training for formators.
5. Interculturality is a grace where "there is no superior culture over any other culture, but what you have can enrich the ideal community." However, egocentricity can be a hindrance to interculturality.



(L-R): Fr. Alfons Oles, MI; Fr. Angel Crisostomo, MI; Fr. Henry Angupa II, MI; Fr. Wilson Peñaranda, MI; Fr. Leocir Pessini, MI (Camillian Superior General); Fr. John Jay Magpusao, MI



With Fr. Aris Miranda, MI (2nd from right)



With Fr. Matthew Vattamattam, CMF, Superior General of the Claretians

Nov. 19, 2017: Camillus MedHaven Senior Skills Cook Fest 2017



Dec. 9, 2017: Religious General Assembly and Christmas Party



Dec. 7, 2017: Installation to the Ministry of Acolytes



ON the eve of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Scholastics Jec Cabarles, Juegene Cafe and Almar Roman were instituted as acolytes. As has been the tradition, the solemn professed religious devotionally renewed their vows as well.

It was on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in 1591 when Camillus and 25 companions made their solemn profession of the evangelical counsels and service to the sick.

Dec. 8, 2017: Meeting of Local Superiors with the Provincial and his Council



"THE Provincial Superior will take the role as a shepherd, in the spirit of humility and tenderness, in uniting and animating the religious and communities towards one vision and mission".

Dec. 16, 2017: SCCS Christmas Party





The church that Fr. Tom and the people of Balugo built



St. Camillus Healthcare Center



The altar

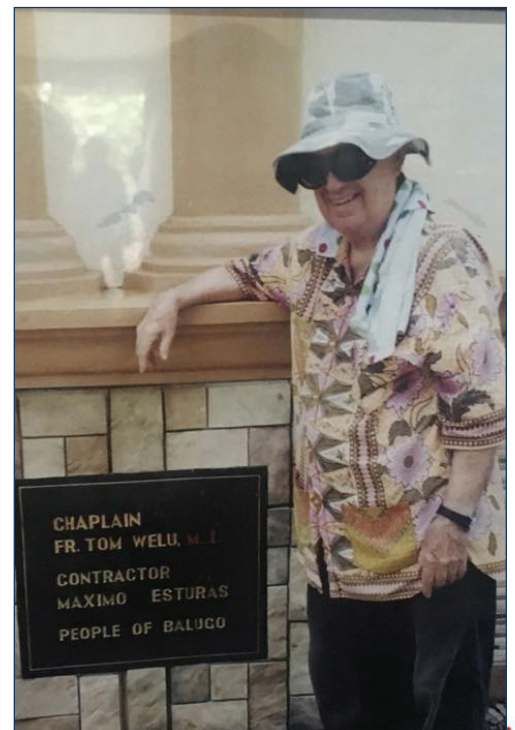


The house where Fr. Tom lives

than a kilometer away from the house. So, after lunch the three guests were brought to visit the church. For many years Fr. Tom had been in charge of the church and the pastor of that barangay. Now, a diocesan priest goes there to celebrate the Eucharist for the people.

Before leaving Balugo, the visitors also had a chance to tour the old clinic. Some of the medical things like beds, cabinets and tables are still there but are no longer used, perhaps for now. Fr. Tom used to treat many patients in that clinic including pregnant women, old people, and children with different kinds of illness. One of the many great contributions of Fr. Tom's coming to this community and opening of that clinic was the introduction of anti-malaria program. The cases of malaria in that community reduced drastically over the years.

Fr. Jojo, Fr. Rodel, and Fr. Gabby were really grateful for the opportunity to visit Fr. Tom and to see what he has done in the community of Balugo. Certainly, there were still many stories that Fr. Tom would like to share had time only permitted. Other stories had been written already in the dearly missed *Balugo Baloney* corner of this newsletter. You may want to have a look at the early issues of the *Camillian Update* or simply pay a visit to him if you happen to be in Dumaguete City and be inspired and entertained by the life and the story of a Camillian missionary in Balugo.



SCMC: Last Quarter Activities of 2017

Dr. Edwin T. Labro

5th Hospital Anniversary



Last Nov. 16, 2017, St. Camillus Medical Center celebrated its 5th Hospital Anniversary and 31 years as an institution with the theme, "Extending Quality Services to Dialysis Patients, Continuing the Mission of Caring with Heart in our Hands," highlighting the SCMC Dialysis Service as the 2017 flagship program of the hospital.

The weeklong celebration started with a Kickoff Ceremony on Nov. 9, 2017 led by Fr. Gabby. Patients availed of the free laboratory and x-ray examinations, ECG, breast screening, cataract screening and muscle taping. SCMC doctors gave free medical consultations. Free medicines were also given.



the Cheering contest drowned the ASEAN gala night musical presentation. Teams Pink Warriors, Yellow Fighters, Apple Green Heroes and Aqua Blue Venous Liners went full throttle from the opening buzzer, showcasing their varied talents—natural or induced—and enjoying every minute of thrill, fun and laughter. Team Apple Green Heroes emerged as the 2017 SCMC Sportsfest Champions.

The most anticipated Annual SCMC Sportsfest was held on Nov. 12, 2017. This year's SCMC Sportsfest overshadowed the ongoing ASEAN Summit. The Basketball Championship game dwarfed the San Beda Red Lions vs. the Lyceum Pirates tiff and

Triduum masses were celebrated on Nov. 13, 14, and 15, 2017 which were incidentally declared as holidays by the government due to the ASEAN Summit.



On Nov. 16, 2017, the anniversary day, a blood-letting was conducted as a joint activity of SCMC and

Rizal Medical Center. Fr. Gabby joined the scores of employees of St. Camillus Medical Center who responded to the call for blood donors. They gave their all—SWEAT, TEARS and BLOOD. A week before, they signed up as volunteers for a good cause. They signed up, they showed up and they bled so that others may live. Real heroes among us.

A concelebrated mass was held, followed by a fellowship dinner that was well-attended with parishioners of the hospital chapel (Mary Health of the Sick and St. Camillus de Lellis) and benefactors of the SCMC Hospital Charity Fund "We Can Be Kind" joining the employees, doctors and the Camillians.

The SCMC Dance Troupe provided some entertainment. Sch. Almar rendered a song. The SCMC Hash Browns were also introduced and got the audience to participate in their number to the tune of VST & Company's "Mabuti Pa Nung Bata." This was followed by their version of a comic music video and live dance performance.

Advent Recollection

On Dec. 5, 2017, Fr. John Paul Alvarado facilitated the hospital employees' Advent Recollection. He talked about repentance and forgiveness, hope, love, joy and peace as well as giving and sharing. The employees also learned the three languages of love: it is seen, it is audible and it is felt.



Simbang Gabi

On Dec. 15, 2017, this year's "Simbang Gabi @ SCMC" started with Fr. John Paul officiating. Patients and their families, employees, doctors and parishioners from Pasig City, Cainta, Marikina City, Antipolo City and Quezon City flocked to the Mary Health of the Sick and St. Camillus de Lellis Chapel of SCMC for the series of nine masses. Traditionally held at dawn, these are now celebrated at different times such as 5:00p.m. or 8:00p.m.



December 16: A W.I.T.T.Y. Christmas Party

In all our endeavors as Team SCMC, we draw inspiration from each other. Thus, Fr. Gabby came up with the theme, "A W.I.T.T.Y. Christmas Party (Wonderfully Inspired, Thanks To You)—A Night of Joy and Laughter."

The program was preceded by a concelebrated mass by Fr. Jojo, Fr. Gabby, Fr. Rodel, Fr. Angel, Fr. Buddy Carriño and Fr. John Paul.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Edwin T. Labro, the hospital director, said that the year penultimately ends at SCMC on the day the hospital's Christmas Party is held. This is because it is the time that the employees and doctors gather together and talk about the year that will soon

come to pass—how they fared as they continue to strive to be relevant in their roles as healthcare workers in a Camillian institution and as collaborators of the Camillians. The birth of Jesus brings hope for us to do better and we rejoice at it.

Magiecel Alarte, the ICU Nursing Staff entry, won "The Funny Ones" contest. She got the judges' nod by being her lonesome, "down-to-earth" barefoot self, playing a ukulele to strum away her pain, showcasing an "ear-shaking," "note-defying" singing voice that complements a broken heart and adopting the signature "girl-with-her-back-pressed-against-a-drapery-and-her-long-hair-cascading-down-as-she-slowly-falls-on-her-knees" finale.

Some doctors, inspired by the VST & Company song and dance during the hospital anniversary fellowship dinner last November, presented a dance number to the delight of everyone. The SCMC Dance Troupe dished out a number also.

Fr. Gabby came up with yet another riotous segment of the night's celebration when he had all the doctors individually perform a dance sample after asking each of them where they live or hailed from.

It was definitely a sequel to the hospital anniversary fellowship dinner in November. It was a night of joy and laughter, nine nights before Christmas.





FROM THE VATICAN

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE 32nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE THEME: "ADDRESSING GLOBAL HEALTH INEQUALITIES" [NEW SYNOD HALL, 16-18 NOVEMBER 2017]



To My Venerable Brother
Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson
Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting
Integral Human Development

I offer a cordial welcome to the participants in the Thirty-second International Conference on the theme Addressing Global Health Inequalities. I express my gratitude to all those who have worked to organize this event, in particular, to the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the International Confederation of Catholic Health Care Institutions.

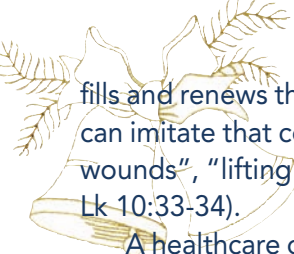
Last year's Conference took note of encouraging data on the average life expectancy and on the global fight against pathologies, while at the same time pointing out the widening gap between the richer and poorer countries with regard to access to medical products and health-care treatment. Consequently, it was decided to address the specific issue of inequalities and the social, economic, environmental and cultural factors underlying them. The Church cannot remain indifferent to this issue. Conscious of her mission at the service of human beings created in the image of God, she is bound to promote their dignity and fundamental rights.

To this end, the New Charter for Health Care Workers states that "the fundamental right to the preservation of health pertains to the value of justice, whereby there are no distinctions between peoples and ethnic groups, taking into account their objective living situations and stages of development, in pursuing the common good, which is at the same time the good of all and of each individual" (No. 141). The Church proposed that the right to health care and the right to justice ought to be reconciled by ensuring a fair distribution of healthcare facilities and financial resources, in accordance with the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity. As the Charter notes, "those responsible for healthcare activities must also allow themselves to be uniquely and forcefully challenged by the awareness that 'while the poor of the world continue knocking on the doors of the rich, the world of affluence runs the risk of no longer hearing those knocks, on account of a conscience that can no longer distinguish what is human'" (No. 91; *Caritas in Veritate*, 75).

I am pleased to learn that the Conference has drafted a project aimed at concretely addressing these challenges, namely, the establishment of an operational platform of sharing and cooperation between Catholic health care institutions in different geographical and social settings. I willingly encourage those engaged in this project to persevere in this endeavour, with God's help. Healthcare workers and their professional associations in particular are called to this task, since they are committed to raising awareness among institutions, welfare agencies and the healthcare industry as a whole, for the sake of ensuring that every individual actually benefits from the right to health care. Clearly, this depends not only on healthcare services, but also on complex economic, social, cultural and decision-making factors. In effect, "the need to resolve the structural causes of poverty cannot be delayed, not only for the pragmatic reason of its urgency for the good of society, but because society needs to be cured of a sickness which is weakening and frustrating it, and which can only lead to new crises. Welfare projects, which meet certain urgent needs, should be considered merely temporary responses. As long as the problems of the poor are not radically resolved by rejecting the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation and by attacking the structural causes of inequality, no solution will be found for the world's problems or, for that matter, to any problems. Inequality is the root of social ills." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 202).

I would like to focus on one aspect that is fundamental, especially for those who serve the Lord by caring for the health of their brothers and sisters. While a well-structured organization is essential for providing necessary services and the best possible attention to human needs, healthcare workers should also be attuned to the importance of listening, accompanying and supporting the persons for whom they care.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus shows us the practical approach required in caring for our suffering neighbour. First, the Samaritan "sees". He notices and "is moved with compassion" at the sight of a person left stripped and wounded along the way. This compassion is much more than mere pity or sorrow; it shows a readiness to become personally involved in the other's situation. Even if we can never equal God's own compassion, which

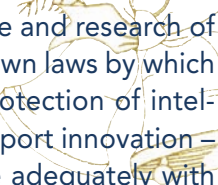


fills and renews the heart by its presence, nonetheless we can imitate that compassion by “drawing near”, “binding wounds”, “lifting up” and “caring for” our neighbour (cf. Lk 10:33-34).

A healthcare organization that is efficient and capable of addressing inequalities cannot forget that its *raison d'être*, which is compassion: the compassion of doctors, nurses, support staff, volunteers and all those who are thus able to minimize the pain associated with loneliness and anxiety.

Compassion is also a privileged way to promote justice, since empathizing with the others allows us not only to understand their struggles, difficulties and fears, but also to discover, in the frailness of every human being, his or her unique worth and dignity. Indeed, human dignity is the basis of justice, while the recognition of every person's inestimable worth is the force that impels us to work, with enthusiasm and self-sacrifice, to overcome all disparities.

Finally, I would like to address the representatives of the several pharmaceutical companies who have been invited to Rome to address the issue of access to anti-retroviral therapies by paediatric patients. I would like to offer for your consideration a passage of the New Charter for Healthcare Workers. It states: “Although it cannot



be denied that the scientific knowledge and research of pharmaceutical companies have their own laws by which they must abide—for example, the protection of intellectual property and a fair profit to support innovation – ways must be found to combine these adequately with the right of access to basic or necessary treatments, or both, especially in underdeveloped countries, and above all in the cases of so-called rare and neglected diseases, which are accompanied by the notion of orphan drugs. Health care strategies aimed at pursuing justice and the common good must be economically and ethically sustainable. Indeed, while they must safeguard the sustainability both of research and of health care systems, at the same time they ought to make available essential drugs in adequate quantities, in usable forms of guaranteed quality, along with correct information, and at costs that are affordable by individuals and communities” (No. 92).

I thank all of you for the generous commitment with which you exercise your valued mission. I give you my Apostolic Blessing, and I ask you to continue to remember me in your prayers.

From the Vatican, 18 November 2017
Francis

SCCS: 8th Grand Alumni Homecoming

Sem. Junilo Arma, MI

On Dec. 10, 2017 the St. Camillus College Seminary (SCCS) celebrated its 8th grand alumni homecoming and the hosts of the celebration were the silver jubilarians batch of 1992. The registration was facilitated by the college seminarians and they had a big number of attendees consisting of alumni and guests. The formal program started with a very solemn mass presided by Fr. Tex Rico Buntol who belonged to batch 1992. Before the final blessing, college president Fr. Rodel Enriquez gave a token of appreciation to the silver jubilarians and the other faculty members of SCCS. After the mass, they proceeded to the refectory for lunch. The program began as everyone was enjoying their lunch and drinks. One part of the program proper was the election of new officers for the SCCS Alumni Association. After the election of new officers, everyone enjoyed a game of bingo sponsored by the silver jubilarians. The prizes included an ipad, an electronic gas stove, and a free



overnight stay in Camp John Hay. The silver jubilarians presented a song number that was their batch song when they were still studying in SCCS.

(continued on page 16)



Before their presentation, each one of the silver jubilarians was given the following questions: What is his current occupation and what were his most memorable moments that he experienced while in SCCS? Each of them had different memorable experiences but one of the jubilarians said that the memorable thing for him inside the SCCS was the time structure or the practice of time management because he said that until now, even

though he is not a seminarian anymore, everytime he works he gives high reverence to his time. The program properly ended with the SCCS Choir and seminary rector Fr. Ruben Mandin, performing their Christmas carols for this year's holiday season. It was indeed a joyful and nostalgic event for the alumni to return to the seminary that nourished them.

A N N I V E R S A R I E S

NOVEMBER

Birthdays

Fr. Renante T. Sentillas	04/11/1969
Sch. YeongMin Kang	13/11/1991
Fr. Salvador Cariño	14/11/1965
Fr. Michael G. Gimena	14/11/1979
Fr. Felice Chech	18/11/1943
Fr. Henry B. Angupa II	19/11/1988
Fr. Brian Vincent Q. Rances	25/11/1982
Fr. Primitivo S. Guinit	27/11/1969

Perpetual Professions

Br. Davide Angelo Cattaneo	11/11/1962
Fr. Andrea Jungiu Seo	30/11/2015

Presbyterate Ordinations

Fr. Gabriel V. Garcia	09/11/2002
Fr. Primitivo S. Guinit	09/11/2002
Fr. Jaime A. Roa	09/11/2002
Fr. Diosdado C. Haber	20/11/1993
Fr. John Paul B. Alvarado	24/11/2012
Fr. Jayson A. Labrador	24/11/2012
Fr. John Jay C. Magpusao	24/11/2012
Fr. Eliseo L. Navarro	24/11/2012
Fr. Rodolfo V. Cancino Jr.	26/11/2011
Fr. Roderick R. Tampis	26/11/2011

Fr. Jose P. Eloja	27/11/1994
Fr. Placido B. de Jose	27/11/2010
Fr. Aristelo D. Miranda	27/11/1994
Fr. Brian Vincent Q. Rances	27/11/2010
Fr. Bon L. Arimbuyutan	29/11/2014

DECEMBER

Birthdays

Fr. Jayson A. Labrador	02/12/1984
Fr. Antonio Didone	08/12/1933
Fr. Wilson D. Peñaranda	09/12/1975
Fr. Giulio Ghezzi	10/12/1943
Br. Paolo Kuo Chien Han	17/12/1957
Br. Joseph Luu Ngoc Khanh	21/12/1985
Sch. Jose Emmanuel B. Caballes	25/12/1990
Fr. Ignasius Sibar	27/12/1979
Fr. Giovanni Rizzi	28/12/1927
Fr. Celestino Rizzi	30/12/1937

Perpetual Professions

Fr. Giancarlo Micheline	08/12/1958
Fr. Celestino Rizzi	08/12/1959
Fr. Giulio Ghezzi	08/12/1968
Fr. Ivo Z. Anselmi	08/12/1970
Fr. Amelio Troietto	08/12/1974

Fr. Matteo Kuo Ching Kao	08/12/1977
Fr. Raimondo Chia Men Yang	08/12/1977
Fr. Remigio E. Jamarabon	08/12/1985
Fr. Bon L. Arimbuyutan	08/12/2013

Presbyterate Ordinations

Fr. Domingo S. Barawid	01/12/2001
Fr. Tex Rico V. Buntol	05/12/1998
Fr. Robert S. Chua Jr.	05/12/1998
Fr. Renante T. Sentillas	06/12/1997
Fr. Samuel A. Cuarto	07/12/1996
Fr. Rolando J. Fernandez	08/12/1984
Fr. Wilson D. Peñaranda	08/12/2007
Fr. Angel V. Crisostomo	09/12/2006
Fr. Michael G. Gimena	09/12/2006
Fr. Renato D. Maliwat	09/12/2006
Fr. Marven G. Ruyeras	11/12/2009

JANUARY

Birthdays

Fr. Paul Tran To Hoai	02/01/1981
Fr. Jacob Haw Ran Wong	14/01/1972
Fr. Placido B. De Jose	19/01/1980

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

Fr. Ruben J. Mandin	02/02/1972
Fr. Raimondo Chia Men Yang	10/02/1950
Fr. Jose P. Eloja	13/02/1966
Fr. Samuel A. Cuarto	16/02/1968
Fr. Joseph Yang Gaochao	20/02/1965
Fr. Evan Paul A. Villanueva	29/02/1968
Sch. Benjie Ang	15/02/1994

Perpetual Professions

Fr. Renato P. Sales	02/02/1990
Fr. Manuel M. Tamayo	02/02/1991
Fr. Jose P. Eloja	05/02/1994
Fr. Aristelo D. Miranda	05/02/1994
Fr. David Maria Tai Chuen Lee	10/02/1996

Presbyterate Ordinations

Fr. Matteo Kuo Ching Kao	03/02/1980
Fr. Rodel R. Enriquez	11/02/2005
Fr. Marcelo L. Pamintuan, Jr.	24/02/1996
Fr. Evan Paul A. Villanueva	24/02/1996
Fr. Henry B. Angupa II	27/02/2016

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