



Tayo nawa'y maging isang Sambayanan na pinagbuklod ng Eukaristiya na kumikilos ayon sa kalooban ng Diyos at naghahandog ng sarili tungo sa Iglesia ng maralita.



Core members of the newly created Media Ministry of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice.

## Parish establishes Media Ministry

by Kaye Baccay

The Parish of the Holy Sacrifice (PHS) has created its newest ministry in response to Bishop Honesto Ongtioco's call during his pastoral visit to utilize technology in reaching out to parishioners.

Formed last July 2017, the Media Ministry was formally introduced to the Diocese last August 25 during the vicariate meeting of media ministries.

"Ang gusto namin, 'yung Media Ministry 'yung maging online representative ng parish natin... kino-continue niya yung mission-vision ng parish natin [kahit] sa internet," coordinator Mar Lopez told Handuhay.

(We want the Media Ministry to be the online representative of our parish... to continue the mission-vision of the parish [even] in the internet.)

By using all forms of communication available, the ministry's goal is to be able to reach out to the people and perform the parish's mission of evangelization and formation.

"Ang goal namin is to reach yung mga tao na hindi nari-reach nung typical church... yung mga hindi nagpupunta sa simbahan, mga hindi nakakapunta... [at] mga walang time pumunta. In a way, nata-touch namin sila through the internet," Lopez said.

(Our goal is to reach the people who are not reached by the typical church, those who do not go to church, those who cannot go, and those who do not have time to go to church. In a way, we are able to reach them through the internet.)

Currently, the Ministry's means of communication is through the official Facebook page where it constantly publicizes parish events and activities to maintain online presence.

With the Facebook page, Lopez said, the parishioners are given a more convenient avenue to inquire about parish-related matters.

Lopez also added that it is also their goal to use social media in spreading the Gospel and the word of God, especially to those who are not yet members of the Catholic Church.

## Here I Am, LCG proclaims

by: Robert Badrina

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am!" I said, "Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

Abraham (Gen 22:1), Jacob (Gen 46:2), Moses (3:4), Isaiah (6:8), and Ananias (Acts 9:10), while coming from different milieus, have but one thing in common: God called them and they answered, "Here I am."

On August 25-26, 2017, 32 members of the Lectors and Commentators Group (LCG) of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice (PHS) went up to Antipolo for an overnight retreat. It's been at least 10 years since LCG had such a spiritual activity, thus our gratefulness to God for his generosity through the parish and its parish priest, Fr. Henry Ferreras. Our gratitude, too, to Fr. Leonardo "Dong" Adapat and Sis. Olympia Aquino for guiding us in looking back and reflection on God's personal call to proclaim his Word.

All of us are called by God to a specific mission or purpose. Truly, vocation, from "vocare" means "to call." While some perceive vocation as only reserved for religious and consecrated life, it actually covers and applies to marriage and single blessedness as well.

One fruit of the Second Vatican Council is the apostolate of the laity, wherein lay faithful are given the opportunity to

*Continued on page 4*



Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, with parish priest Fr. Henry Ferreras, process towards the sanctuary for the Holy Spirit Mass.

## Holy Spirit Mass opens new academic year

by Loreen Danao

“Come, Lord Jesus. Send us Your Spirit. Renew the face of the earth.”

Thus sang the faithful of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice (PHS) as a new academic year opened with the Holy Spirit Mass (HSM) on Aug. 18.

Some 300 attendees filled the PHS during the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev. Honesto Ongtioco, bishop of Cubao, with PHS parish priest Fr. Henry Ferreras, as concelebrant.

Given UP’s secular environment, the HSM is a reminder of God’s presence and abiding love.

“[Through] the Holy Spirit Mass, [the UP community] asks for guidance and blessing of the Holy Spirit as [it] enters another academic year,” event head Rafael Bagood told Handuhay.

“It is also to invite people to always remember the Holy Spirit in all their endeavors, [big or small],” Bagood added.

*Continued on page 4*

Further, Fritz Jalandoni, Liturgies head of the Campus Ministry Office (CMO), said that the HSM is about “cultivating Christian identity.”

“[O]ur identity is to love our neighbors and [to love] God who loves us. And one way of showing that love is our complete trust in Him,” Jalandoni said.

He also emphasized the universal quality of being Catholic.

“We not only pray for ourselves but we pray for others without specification,” Jalandoni said.

“If faith can move mountains, so can our [faithful prayers] in the Mass move hearts. We are helping each other out here, without any strings attached,” he added.

Held at the beginning of every academic year, the CMO sponsors the HSM, thus making the Ministry’s presence felt inside the University.

Meanwhile, UP student and regular churchgoer Gladryl Omillo said the HSM or the Holy Mass itself has always been his “source of strength” and “spiritual nourishment.”

“[It is to] refresh and reset time, recovering from summer hangover, getting ready for the sem ahead,” he said.

## UPD Catholic students celebrate Ablaze

by Rian Fritz Jalandoni

As the new academic year began, the Campus Ministry Office (CMO) and Catholic Students’ Community (CSC) gathered together for “Ablaze,” their annual fellowship activity after the Holy Spirit Mass on Aug. 18.

“We tried to align the theme of this year’s Ablaze with the Year of the Parish as Communion of Communities,” CMO coordinator Rogelio Nato Jr. said.

“This is an opportunity for the student-members and volunteers of CMO and CSC to partake of the Lord’s goodness and blessings through food, games, and other community-spirited activities,” Nato added.

The program consisted of games and presentations from the CMO and every

# Seeing the ‘unusual’ love in Kita Kita

by Cloie Anne Sioson

Can kindness be seen? How about love? Can disability hinder the ability to love and be loved?

“Kita Kita” is not your usual love story; nor is it a typical romantic-comedy film. Putting on the spotlight to an actor who is not your typical leading man is risky for filmmakers. Casting a fully-abled actress to a role of a blind character can also be a challenge. Yet, this film beat the odds, just like the love that the lead characters’ had for each other.

Set in Sapporo, Japan, “Kita Kita” tells the tale of a tourist guide and her stranger neighbor and the love and kindness they shared.

Lea, played by Alessandra De Rossi, lost her vision in the middle of the street at night. She lives on her own, with really no one to be with. Then here comes her neighbor Tonyo, played by Emjoy Marquez, whom she did not know. He tries to befriend her, but fails in the first tries. She finally gave in to Tonyo’s friendliness, and the two would spend each day with each other. Eventually, they fell for each other, even if Lea could not see Tonyo.

The story in itself is not new, but interesting storytelling brings life to any tale. Showing whimsical scenes, such as a banana and a heart running, brought smiles on the faces of the moviegoers, and reminiscing such scenes brought them to tears. Adorable scenes and dialogs by Lea and Tonyo, and the characters’ unique experience of a different side of Japan personally won me over. But what exactly made the viewers love this film?

Love and kindness - these two concepts are what made this story and this film a huge success.

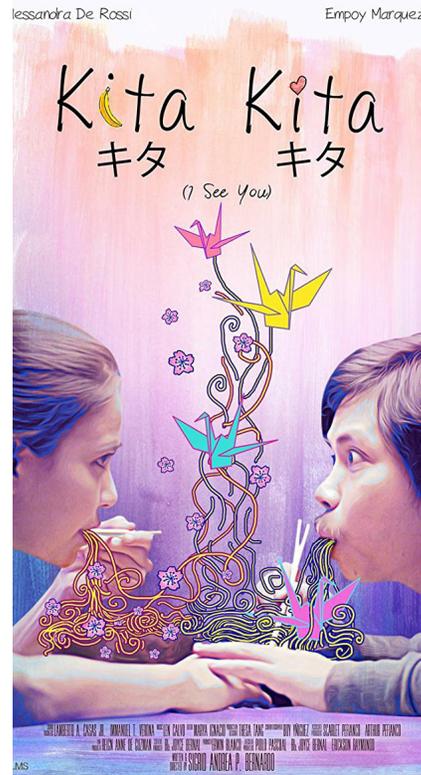
The film proved that we do not need our physical senses to show and to experience love and kindness; what we need is a generous heart that is willing to give up anything and everything just to make another person feel better, feel loved. Though strangers, Lea and Tonyo shared food and company with each other when each of them needed help and companions. Moreover, Tonyo went the extra mile to make Lea happy despite her state. In turn, Tonyo was happy, too, knowing that he made someone smile.

Love can really change people.

Lea lived alone before Tonyo came into her life. Living alone can be difficult. What more if one is to live alone without sight? Lea’s life really took a pause when she developed temporary blindness brought about by extreme stress. Getting around without seeing a thing is a challenge, yet Lea was able to survive. She was able to live her life again when Tonyo was around; she was even able to enjoy traveling even without seeing a thing. Indeed, having people around can make our world better and brighter. We can feel a sense of community and of belonging once we are surrounded with people.

“Kita Kita” is different from the other local romantic-comedy films we have now. Its novelty brought its charm. This film is beautifully crafted, from the casting, to the locations, to the execution. The casting of Marquez brought out the best in him, proving that comedians are serious actors. De Rossi once again showed her award-winning, all-natural acting. These two actors were perfect for the film, just as Sapporo, a quiet city compared to Tokyo, was the perfect setting. Seeing a more natural side of Japan was refreshing. Aside from the refreshing sights and the perfect casting, the overall concept of two lost souls who found love by giving love and kindness, with a few funny situations, made the film’s audience swoon with kilig. Truly, love and kindness will always win over anyone.

“Kita Kita” set quite a high bar for modern-day local romantic-comedies among Filipino millennials, and even among the young at heart. The love and kindness expressed in the film did not only manifest in romance, but also in loving concern towards the other.



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. Henry Ferreras

**GUEST PRIESTS:** Fr. Tizan Jose & Fr. Binu Scaria

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**COORDINATOR:** Nathaniel Diola

**SECRETARY:** Janeth Mabaquiao

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Joseph Arellano & Leo Ferreras, *Sacristans* - Jaime Subalid, *Gardener* - Armando & Rolando Cedullo, *Maintenance*

Marpe Amper & Jocelyn Cedullo, *Cooks*

Catholic organization comprising the CSC.

YFC member Clarice Neri liked the game with blindfolds as she saw our country's current situation in it. "[O]nce we really know the voice of the right person, we won't get lost in the darkness," she said.

UPSCAn Hart Aran found the CSC organizations' performances "entertaining and great."

"The whole of the audience was singing along, waving, and clapping their hands which gave life and spirit to the message of the event, reunion and unity," he said.

Meanwhile, everyone was encouraged to wear red for this year's Ablaze.

"Red symbolizes a new acad[emic] year for us to bond and work together as one Catholic community within the university," event head Loreen Danao explained.

"Kaya rin after the Holy Spirit Mass, [the Ablaze] is to signify how the Holy Spirit has actually come down on the faithful, like that of Pentecost Sunday, that impels them to commune with each other," Nato added.

participate actively in liturgical celebrations like the Mass by performing functions or offices. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy or Sacrosanctum Concilium (SC) very well articulates it, such that "[i]n liturgical celebrations, each person, minister or layman, who has an office to perform, should do all of, but only, those parts which pertain to his office by nature of the rite and the principles of liturgy" (SC 28). It adds in the next section that "[s]ervers, lectors, commentators, and members of the choir ... exercise a genuine liturgical function..., thus [showing] the importance of the role of the laity in the celebration of the Eucharist" (SC 29).

The retreat personally gave me an intimate opportunity to be with the Lord who called me in this ministry of proclamation. The entire LCG likewise found solace and peace. No matter how diverse we are (that is, members include parents, children, housewives, professors, students, PhD holders, medical doctors, lawyers, engineers, government employees and private sector workers), including our ages that ranger from 18 to 70, we have responded positively to that call to proclaim Christ, the Word of God.

Indeed, our strength lies in our heterogeneity unified by the Caller who is God. While we can tell our own stories and anecdotes of calling and responding, the truth remains that it is God who chose us to be part of LCG in the first place. God took the initiative. We cannot take pride for anything, for even our response is sanctified with and upheld by grace.

Meanwhile, August 25, our retreat day, contains richness and significance in the parish history as it was the day in 1955 when the concrete shell of the church's dome was poured and formed. It was a challenging and arduous task that needed sophisticated techniques and daring methods to achieve successful execution. As it particularly needed a good weather, it seemed the skies were not cooperative enough for it rained that day. Lo! There were only mild drizzles at the chapel's construction site. It was exactly what the builders needed to ensure that the concrete would dry just slowly enough in order to achieve maximum strength. The huge dome appeared to be floating in the air and when Father Delaney, SJ (the first UP Chaplain) asked the chief civil engineer what it is holding up, the engineer simply answered, "Faith Father."

The retreat reminded us that faith holds us together, like the dome of the parish. We may be coming from different and diverse backgrounds but this faith enables us to continue saying yes to the Lord. Our burning passion to serve the Lord through the proclamation of his Word is however not a simple response to his invitation. Entailed in it is a sense of responsibility and commitment to improve ourselves.

Thirty-two participated in the retreat -- the same number of buttresses that hold the church's structure. The thought seems to remind us that the people are the real walls and posts keeping the church firm and placed. As part of the community of faithful gathered together by God's love and mercy in the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, we will continue to serve the Lord with gladness!

*Robert Badrina is Vice Chair and Liturgical Committee Head of the Lectors and Commentators Group of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice.*



**CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS AT THE PARISH OF THE HOLY SACRIFICE**

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** 6am, 12nn, 6pm **FILIPINO SUNDAY MASSES:** 6am, 8am, 10am, 6pm

**ENGLISH SUNDAY MASSES:** 7am, 9am, 12:15PM, 5PM, 7PM, 8PM

**INDIVIDUAL BAPTISM:** Tuesday - Saturday, *by appointment*

**CONFESSION:** Mon - Thu, *during and after 12nn and 6pm Mass | Friday, during & after 12nn Mass*

**GROUP BAPTISM:** Saturday, 11:15am **ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** *by appointment*