

Handuhay

Official Newsletter of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice



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Parish of the Holy Sacrifice Installs New Parish Priest

by: Carlo S. Dureza

On January 27, 2019, the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice (PHS), Diliman, Quezon City had formally installed and welcomed its new parish priest, Fr. Jose “Bong” S. Tupino, III of the Diocese of Cubao in austere but solemn ceremonies. The occasion was held in the pergula-like church inside the UP Campus. Most Rev. Honesto D. Ongtioco, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Cubao presided over the installation rites. Fr. Jojo Simon, Chancellor of the Diocese read Fr. Tupino’s appointment letter.

During the renewal of priestly ordination vows, Bishop Ongtioco admonished Fr. Bong to shepherd the flock of the PHS in the proliferation of the faith. In his sermon, the bishop also asked the church-goers in attendance to forgive the past shepherds who may not have completely fulfilled their expectations as they are only humans with shortcomings. He reminded the faithful to lend their utmost support to their parish priests as they will always do the very best in addressing their spiritual needs.

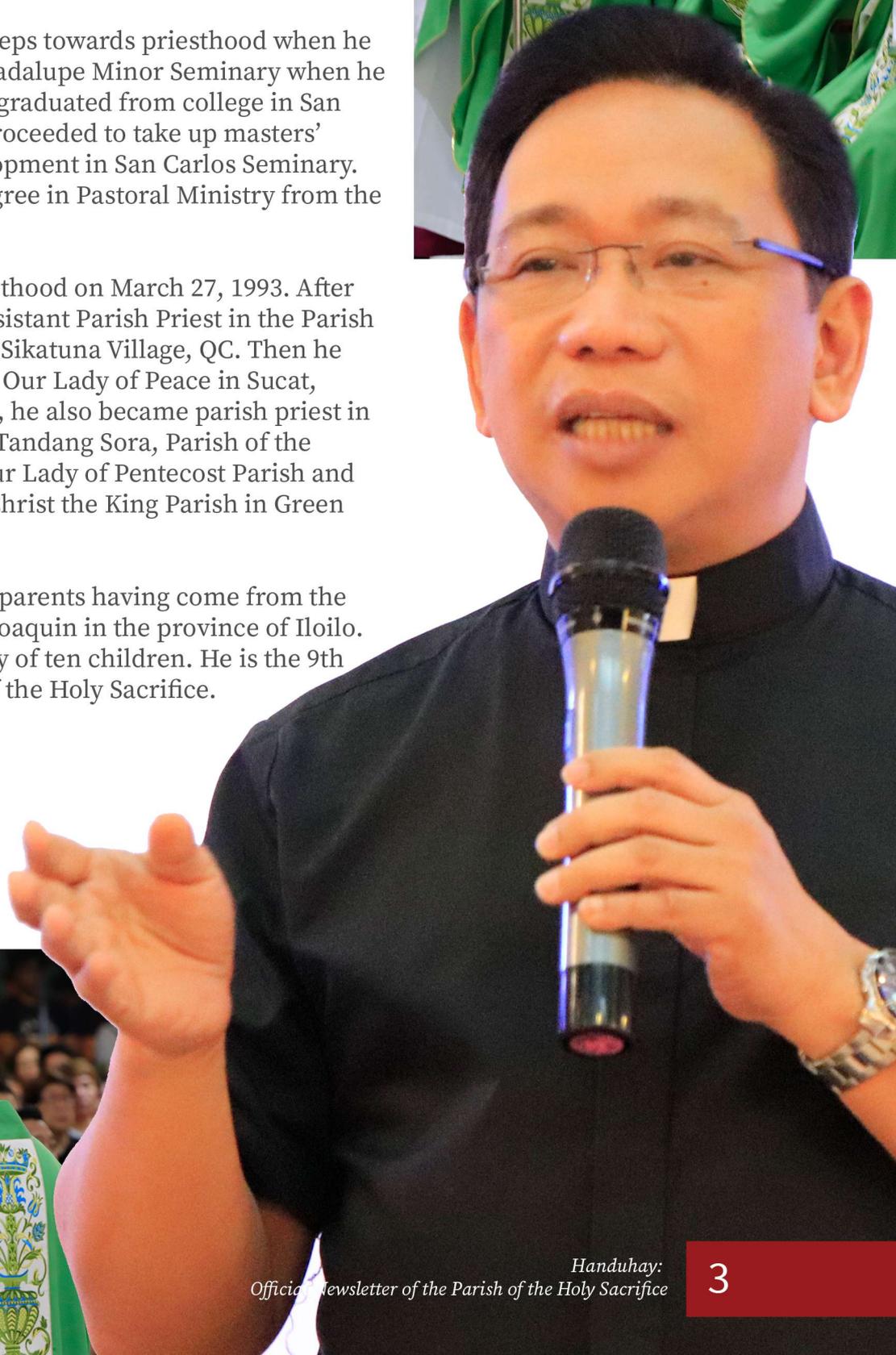
Highlighting the installation ceremony was the symbolic turn-over of three important church fixtures to the new parish priest as sign of authority and leadership: the baptismal font which stands for his role in ushering new Christians to a life of freedom and holiness in Christ; the confessional box which represents his conciliatory role in bringing back sinners to the Lord’s sheepfold through forgiveness by the Sacrament of Penance; and the tabernacle which signifies the salvation of God’s people through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. *Continued on Page 3*

In his acceptance speech, Fr. Bong openly admitted that at one time, he strongly felt drawn to the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice. He intimated that during his ordination, an alumna of UP and concurrent chaplain of UPSCA, approached him and narrated how their members were touched by the Jesuit priest Fr. John Delaney, SJ. He was the Jesuit priest who pioneered the construction of the famed circular-structured church. According to her, Fr. Delaney influenced their faith and life. Fr. Bong then discovered that Fr. Delaney was intelligent and practical, prayerful and generous, kind and simple. Hence Fr. Bong's penchant for the PHS.

Fr. Bong Tupino traces his steps towards priesthood when he first entered Our Lady of Guadalupe Minor Seminary when he was in high school. He then graduated from college in San Carlos Seminary and then proceeded to take up masters' degree units in Social Development in San Carlos Seminary. He obtained his masters' degree in Pastoral Ministry from the Loyola School of Theology.

He was ordained to the priesthood on March 27, 1993. After which, he first worked as Assistant Parish Priest in the Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy, Sikatuna Village, QC. Then he first became parish priest in Our Lady of Peace in Sucat, Paranaque. In the past years, he also became parish priest in San Isidro Labrador Parish, Tandang Sora, Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Our Lady of Pentecost Parish and his most recent parish was Christ the King Parish in Green Meadows.

Fr. Tupino is an Ilonggo, his parents having come from the towns of Tigbauan and San Joaquin in the province of Iloilo. He is the 5th child in a family of ten children. He is the 9th parish priest of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice.





DARE TO SAY “YES”

by: Arvin D. Uriat

This year's World Youth Day was held in Panama and the theme is the fiat of Mary, her YES to God: "I am the servant of the Lord, may it be done to me according to Your Word" [Luke 1:38]. Mary allowed herself to be used as an instrument in fulfilling God's salvific plan for all. It was a brave and generous "yes", but it was not that easy and simple. She must have been very troubled knowing that her positive response would be accompanied by great risks and dangers, not only for herself but for her loved ones also. But still, because of her tremendous trust to God, she had the courage to accept God's invitation despite the overwhelming hardships and challenges she would encounter. In his homily during the WYD Welcoming Program, Pope Francis invited the young people to imitate Mary as she bravely and generously responded YES to God's call. He said "To say YES means to embrace life; to embrace life means to embrace everything, and hopefully we embrace life as it is with love". Mary embraced everything with love including the doubts, struggles, uncertainties, and problems. She certainly lived out the words of Pedro Arrupe: "Realize that you have a mission and fall in love; that will decide everything". This is what Mary felt when she dared to accept the invitation of God.

"Young people are not the future but the NOW of God", the Pope said. Definitely, the young people have a role in the Church and society. They always have something to offer that can greatly contribute to the welfare of the Church and society: their talents, capabilities, intelligence, etc. But where are they now? Why do many young people hesitate to give their time and render their service to the Church? Why do they seem inactive or indifferent to the church and society? The Pope reminded us that "our lives only find meaning in service to God and other people ... but, to be at the service of others does not only mean to be ready for action. It also means to be in conversation with God with an attitude of listening, just like Mary". The Pope appealed to adults to properly guide and form young people so that they can find a place in the Church and in society. The adults should give the youth the opportunity to actively participate in Church, involve them in the planning, consider their opinions and hear their suggestions rather than being inconsiderate to the point that the youth feel they're ignored, and create a welcoming atmosphere where there is a sense of belongingness in a community. *Continued on Page 5*



Community is very important. As the Pope said, “It is impossible to dream a future without a community”. The Church is a community. As a community, we should allow everyone to participate and be involved in fulfilling God’s dream. We must not exclude anyone in the same way that we must not let ourselves be excluded from the community. As a youth and a member of one community, I challenge my fellow youth, the ‘now’ of God, that as young people chosen by God as His beloved children, let us use our giftedness to serve Him and His people and be an inspiration in empowering other youth to spread the mission of love and service. I know it’s not easy to follow Jesus but the challenge is to never give up. If we fail, we can always start again. Be optimistic. Never surrender but always dare to respond bravely and generously to God. If we wish to be a disciple of Christ, we must be willing to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and dare to say YES just like Mary!

*“...dare to say
YES just like
Mary!”*

Passing Moments, Filling Moments that Last

by: Carlo S. Dureza

Visiting the needy as an outreach activity is no stranger. We engage in these often, upon the need arising or due to some avowed ministry objective. Last March 18, a few members of the Campus Ministry Office of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice paid a visit to cancer-stricken children of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC). It was like any other usual outreach, nothing really special to crow about but we all tried to draw the essence of it.

In observance of the twin virtues of mercy and compassion which our ministry chose to espouse for this month of March, we volunteers strove to delight over 10 children afflicted with cancer and conversed with their parents. We distributed candies, cookies, fruits and drinking water to assuage their dampened spirits. We read children's stories and even played with one of them in a cheerful "song-and-dance number".

As we strode from bed to bed in dimly-lit wards, our hearts were deeply moved with the sight of children connected to intravenous tubes, or lying nearly motionless with the aid of life-support machines. Parents were wearing grim faces holding back tears. They intimated how much they hurt over seeing their children in pain. They decried the uncertainty of staying in the hospital because prolonged stays would mean ever-increasing financial burdens. These were the common lament of the ones we visited.

At the end of the activity, we realized that the travails of the families we visited pale in comparison with our own. We worry so much about running after accomplishments, fulfilling our heart's desires and arriving at a secure future. We seem impervious to those suffering around us. We even sometimes take our health and wellness for granted in a sense that we rarely express our thankfulness to the Lord for making us well.

Given an ordinary visit to the sick, how could we make this usually passing moment one that could be filled with something significant that would make it last? A moment is but fleeting but when it is filled to the hilt, it could last to make one live longer. Mercy and compassion once shown could leave a lasting imprint on the people to who whom we have shown it. The sick is one with Jesus' resurrection as they share in His suffering. That visit could just have been a moment but the words and gestures of faith in God when shared could make that moment into a lifetime.



Joy in Gratitude and Forgiveness

by: Therese Maria Abigail Ledesma

The multitude of heartbreaks I faced in 2018 can easily get me to say that it was the worst year of my life in my 22 years of existence. People came, but chose not to stay. A loved one passed away. I had to quit work. I got an INC for the first time in my stay in the university. I've had my share of mental and emotional breakdowns. It is fair enough to say that I have hit rock bottom. I secluded myself from friends and even family. I tried to hide the pain because any other emotion apart from being fine will disturb those around me and I didn't want that.

Little did I know that I was also breaking down spiritually. Although I still prayed, it was more of a routinary lip service. Even though I still attended Mass on Sundays, it felt like fulfilling an obligation. I was so ashamed of my lack of trust, of my faith that slipped away. I felt too unworthy to even come before the Lord. I was lonely. I succumbed to a lot of self-hate and, at that time, I just wanted to disappear.

A very beautiful message I read through a Catholic page in Facebook struck me and became the starting point of my journey back. It said, "The best way to enter into Christmas and end this year might not be to have this perfect version of yourself to present, with all the ends tied up. It might just be to enter into the mess, and give Him the mess-- because that's why He came."

Last month, I finally approached the sacrament of reconciliation after quite a long time. My confessor reminded me that we can find joy in gratitude and forgiveness. It was a wonderful message for me as Lent came. I strive to remember the little blessings and thank God for them. I've learned to be grateful even for the suffering. It was then I was able to accept that I have already been forgiven and that I am constantly loved by God. This Lent and Holy Week is another invitation to acknowledge the chaos we are in and to offer Him that--all our sinfulness and sufferings--because that's why Jesus sacrificed His life on the cross and rose again.



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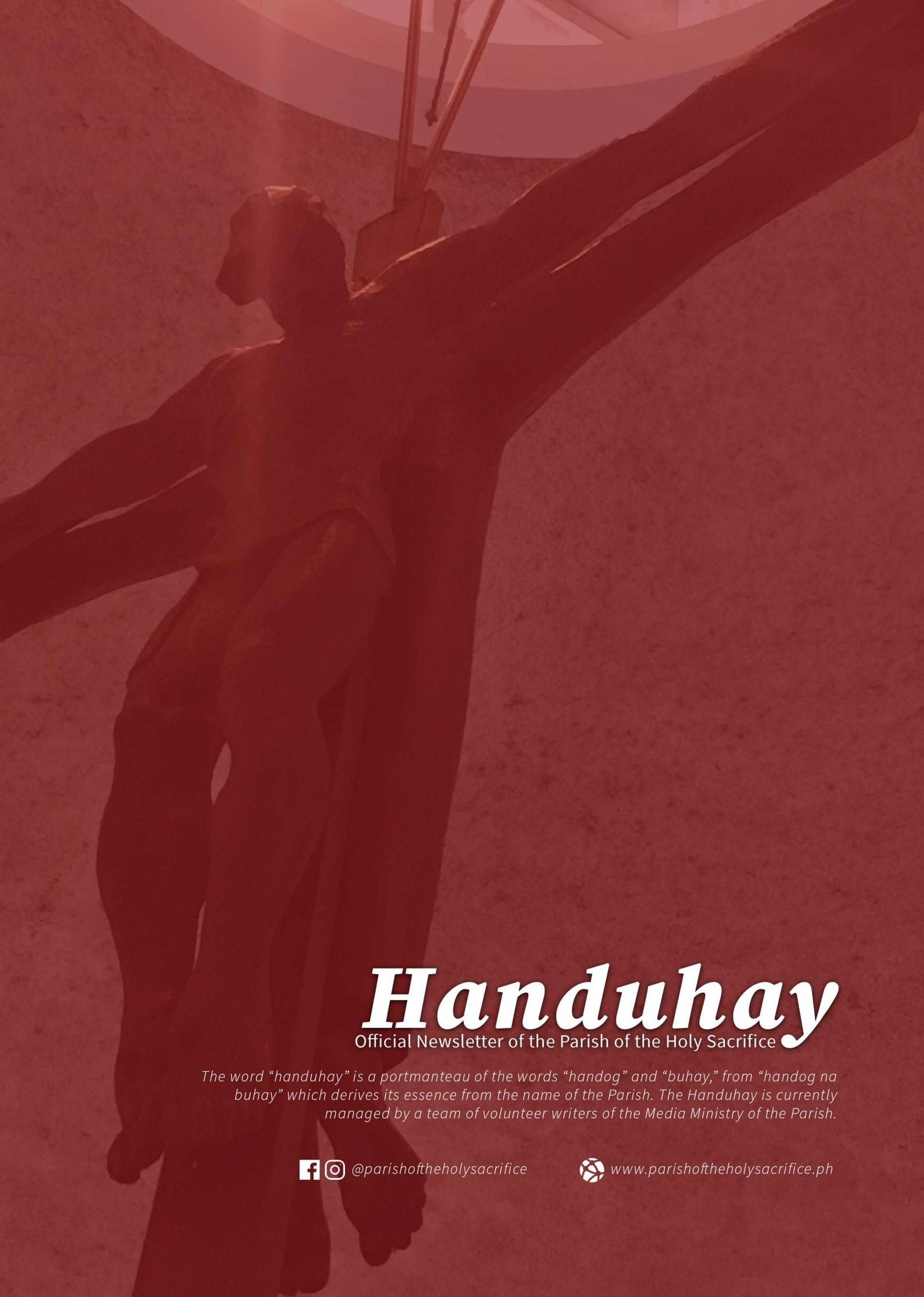
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The word “handuhay” is a portmanteau of the words “handog” and “buhay,” from “handog na buhay” which derives its essence from the name of the Parish. The Handuhay is currently managed by a team of volunteer writers of the Media Ministry of the Parish.

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