



Arnold Janssen Kalinga FOUNDATION

Quarterly Newsletter of the Arnold Janssen
Kalinga Foundation Inc.

Inside the Issue

ARNOLD JANSSEN KALINGA CENTER'S 9TH ANNIV: 'ALL ABOUT GRATITUDE' *by Nirva Delacruz*



MS. HEDY LEE AND HER COMPANION VOLUNTEERED AT STATION 3 (CLOTHING) DURING THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND SPONSORED BURGERS AND TREATS FOR THE HOMELESS.



DURING THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, THE HOMELESS ALSO GOT ICE CREAM TREATS!



Every year, our dear homeless look forward to the Arnold Janssen Kalinga Center (AJKC) anniversary celebration. This year was no different, all because of a spirit of gratitude among our beneficiaries, volunteers, and staff.

On July 16, the actual anniversary of AJKC, the AJKC residents, the Arnold Janssen Kalinga Foundation Inc. (AJKFI) staff, and some invited guests celebrated the Holy Eucharist at the Catholic Trade Manila (CTM) Building chapel, presided over by SVD Philippine Central

Province - Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation assistant coordinator Fr. Efren de Guzman, SVD, with Fr. Freddie Sabado, SVD as homilist.

Time, jobs, health

In his homily, Fr. Sabado underscored three things the AJKFI family should be thankful for: time, our jobs, and health.

"We celebrate our anniversary because we want to thank God for our life, and that life is God's gift to you. Whatever will happen to you in the future, that is your gift to God," the priest explained. He also stressed how privileged all the AJKFI staff and volunteers are. "We are also thankful for our jobs, and we won't last long here [without the grace of God]."

Note from the Founder

A QUARTER OF GRATITUDE

When you look at the origins of the word “gratitude”, it actually comes from the Latin “gratus”, which means “pleasing, agreeable, thankful.” What is more interesting is that the word is loosely related to the word “grace.” So beautiful and how fitting! To be grateful is actually to have grace. To find oneself grateful is a grace—and yet another reason to be grateful!

The last 3 months have indeed been a quarter of gratitude for us. There has been an abundance of things to thank God and each other for. We celebrated yet another milestone in July: the Arnold Janssen Kalinga Center (AJKC) is 9-years old! What started as a venture into the unknown for the sake of God’s little ones became a foundation that would embrace two of the most neglected sectors in society: the street dwellers and the drug war victims.

The theme for AJKC’s 9th anniversary was taken from

John 15:16, “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you”, which highlighted how all the good we are able to do and every good thing happening in the Foundation’s mission does not come from us or our efforts but solely from our Lord.

From July to September, aside from the anniversary, we had two medical – dental missions, the Paghilom youth’s first recollection, as well as the debut performance of Himig Paghilom at the Swiss National Day, August 29, held at the Enderun Colleges where they sang the Swiss national anthem in English. We are not just thankful for all the amazing developments in both of our programs but even more so for the depth of gratitude we feel because we have been called to be part of this mission.

What a privilege!

Rev. Fr. Flavie L. Villanueva, SVD

‘HIMIG PAGHILOM’ DEBUTS AT SWISS EMBASSY EVENT

by Nirva Delacruz



HIMIG PAGHILOM, ENTIRELY COMPOSED OF EJK ORPHANS AND YOUTH, PERFORMED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE SWISS NATIONAL DAY ON AUGUST 29 AT THE ENDERUN COLLEGES.

After watching the EJK youth and orphans’ “Teatro ng Kabataan” at Adamson University in March 2024, Swiss Ambassador Dr. Nicolas Brühl thought of inviting them to sing the Swiss National Anthem at the National Swiss Day. AJKFI Managing Director Teresita Castillo recalls, “They were so inspired...[So we said], we’ll ask the youth who’s interested [to sing] and we formed the group that would take on the name ‘Himig Paghilom’.”

The 11-member chorale opened the Swiss National Day on August 29 at the Enderun Tent, Enderun Colleges, BGC with their singing of the Swiss National Anthem in English. They introduced “Himig Paghilom” “as wounded healers yet gifted agents of hope...vibrant members of Program Paghilom.” Coached by Paolo Angelo Pineda, they performed beautifully and with great team spirit. Looking forward to more performances, “Himig Paghilom”!

PAGHILOM YOUTH, KIDS HAVE 1ST RECOLLECTION

by Nirva Delacruz

THE PAGHILOM YOUTH HAVE A FUN TIME GETTING TO KNOW OTHER MEMBERS DURING THE “BAHAY, BABOY, BAGYO” ICE BREAKER FACILITATED BY THE MFC - YOUTH OF LAGUNA BEFORE THE RECOLLECTION PROPER ON JULY 10.



“Itong event na ‘to, core memory ko ‘to (This event, it’s a core memory for me).”

This is how one of the young people of Program Paghilom described the Paghilom Youth Recollection and Assembly held on July 10, Wednesday at the Cathedral-Shrine and Parish of the Good Shepherd, Novaliches.

‘Wonderfully made’

121 EJK youth and kids had more than half a day to reflect on the theme “I am wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14) through energizers, interactive group dynamics, community singing and dancing, small group sharing, and a short talk on the theme, referencing the animated movie *The Lion King*. Local youth leader Francesca Maria Duran facilitated the session, which had the young people watch clips from the movie while reflecting on their own realities and experiences.

For the first time, the Paghilom youth heard testimonies from other young people from other groups. Guided by Paghilom facilitators, 18 members of the BEC youth of Novaliches and youth leaders from the Missionary Families of Christ – Youth (MFC - Youth) of Laguna facilitated the day’s activities, which was full of laughter and bonding moments. Paghilom facilitators Sally and Emil Bergonia, who are also active MFC leaders, invited their youth ministry to help facilitate the activities.

The struggles of today’s youth

During the youth’s group sharing, Jenivive, shared in Filipino: “As a person, recently, I’ve been struggling..”

During your teenage years, you’re at the time when you’re struggling with confidence, with things that make you feel unworthy. [The talk] made me realize that I am wonderfully made. By the grace of God, we can overcome our fears and setbacks in life.”

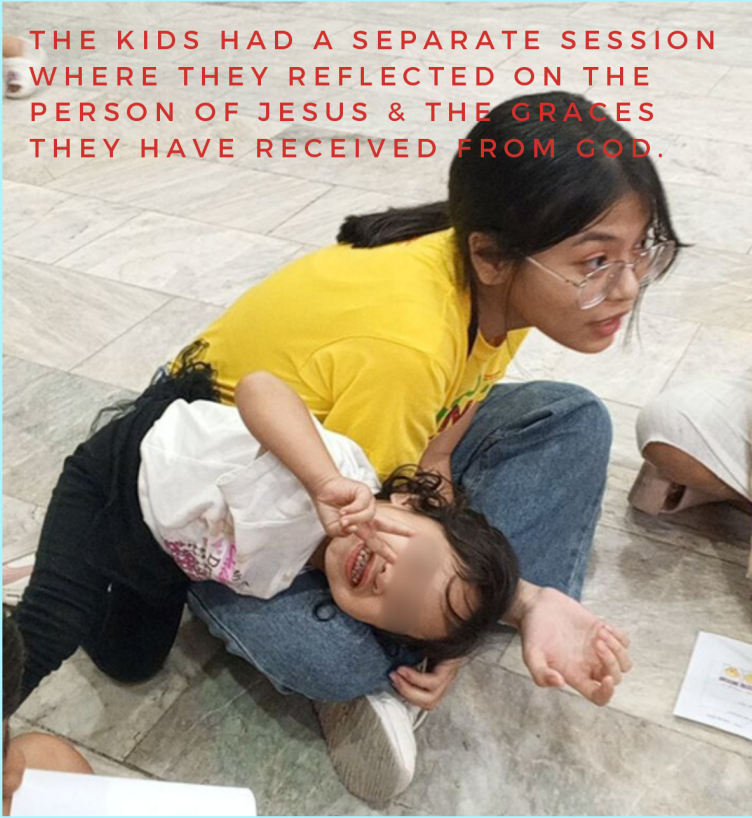
For Paghilom facilitator Ludy Duran, the movie was a fitting springboard for the young people to generate insights about their own lives. “They could identify with the characters in the *Lion King*, [with] being in power. They could identify that they have leadership,” she explained.

According to Duran, the Paghilom youth and the other young people immediately formed a bond. “They were also happy to get to know each other in small groups...The camaraderie was easily built,” she added.



THE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A “PAINT-ME-A-PICTURE” ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTING SCENES FROM THE MOVIE *THE LION KING*, WHICH HELPED THEM REFLECT ON THEMES LIKE IDENTITY, SELF-WORTH, & GOD’S LOVE.

THE KIDS HAD A SEPARATE SESSION WHERE THEY REFLECTED ON THE PERSON OF JESUS & THE GRACES THEY HAVE RECEIVED FROM GOD.



Separate kids' session

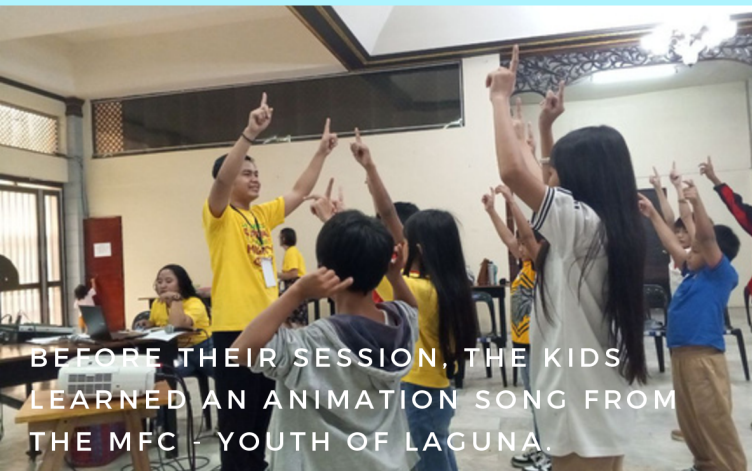
Meanwhile, the Paghilom kids, aged 4 to 12, had a separate session on one of the basics of the Christian faith: the person of Jesus Christ and His love for everyone. After singing action songs and learning dance steps together, the kids wrote down or drew what they considered to be their greatest blessings from God.

11-year old Eldine Ray Sucgang thanked God for something people easily take for granted. He wrote: "Nagpapasalamat po ako kay Lord kasi binigyan Niya 'ko ng utak para makapagisip ng tama at mali. At pagpapasalamat ko rin po dahil 'di N'ya kami pinapabayaan sa araw-araw at sa mga blessing na binibigay N'ya sa family ko." (I'm thankful to the Lord because He gave me a mind to be able to discern right and wrong. And I'm also thankful because He takes care of us everyday, and also for the blessings that He gives my family.)

Sharing the reality of God's love

Aaron, one of the MFC Youth leaders from Laguna, shared about the challenges of living with epilepsy, poverty, and living away from his parents. He shared in Filipino: "Before, I had so many failures. I never felt the love of family, I never felt the care..Even if I received many awards, I would go up the stage alone. I didn't have parents."

Aaron shared how he eventually realized the greatness of God's love for him despite everything through a faith-based community. "That time, I didn't know Christ, but He was making a way to make me feel that He loved me. We are made wonderfully because He loves us, even if we don't feel His physical presence," he explained.



BEFORE THEIR SESSION, THE KIDS LEARNED AN ANIMATION SONG FROM THE MFC - YOUTH OF LAGUNA.

AJKFI HOSTS 2 MED MISSIONS FOR EJK VICTIMS, HOMELESS

by Nirva Delacruz

Part of dignified, holistic, and systematic care is addressing the health concerns of the people we look after. This is why it was a privilege for the Arnold Janssen Kalinga Foundation to host two medical-dental missions, the first one was sponsored by Ms. Donita Tapay, in partnership with Hospital on Wheels on July 13 at the Catholic Trade Building grounds.



A KID GRINS AS HIS BLOOD PRESSURE IS BEING TAKEN DURING THE MEDICAL MISSION.

A total of 607 patients were served that day. The following services were provided for the homeless, EJK families under Program Paghilom, residents of the nearby barangays, and employees of the Catholic Trade Manila community:

- 199 surgeries (hernia, cleft palate, skin and soft tissue tumors, circumcisions, etc.);

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Employee Spotlight



STELLA (CENTER) IS FLANKED BY TWO OF HER STUDENTS WHO WERE VOTED "FACES OF THE NIGHT" AT AN ALS PROM NIGHT ORGANIZED BY THE ARNOLD JANSSEN MISSION FOUNDATION IN FEBRUARY 2024.



STELLA POSES FOR HER GRADUATION PHOTO AS A SOON-TO-BE-TEACHER.

STELLA: CHANGING LIVES, ONE LESSON AT A TIME

by Nirva Delacruz

"INFJ." Of the 16 Myers-Briggs Personality Types, the "Introvert-Intuitive-Feeling-Judging" type is the rarest personality, making up 1 to 2% of the population. INFJs are mysterious, mostly silent, swan-like entities who are the most purpose-driven people you'll ever meet. A strong belief system is at the core of the INFJ.

You can say that Stella Mariz Talco, Arnold Janssen Kalinga Center's Alternative Learning System (ALS) Learning Facilitator, is AJKFI's resident INFJ. One of the youngest in the AJ Kalinga fam, this Gen Z represents a vibrant cross-section of the diverse team of the Foundation that has practically all the other generations represented: Baby Boomers; Gen X, and Millennials.

A passion for teaching

First joining the team in April 2021 as an office management staff, Stella was offered to take on ALS as its Instructional Manager in August. "I eagerly accepted, driven by my passion for teaching—a dream I feared might never be realized due to the pandemic," she recalls. Accredited by the Department of Education, ALS "offers non-formal education to out-of-school youth and adults," which in the case of the Foundation, includes street dwellers and drug war victims.

It wouldn't be long before ALS would coax out Stella's own light and unique gifts, seen foremost in her noble aspirations. In an interview, she shares: "I am passionate about many things, but what truly ignites my spirit is my love for teaching and sharing knowledge. As a teacher, knowledge is my lifeblood, fueling my desire to inspire and uplift my learners."

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TEACHER STELLA GIVES A FUNCTIONAL LITERACY TEST TO ONE OF HER ALS STUDENTS BEFORE THE START OF CLASSES.

Teaching in the ALS program requires an extraordinary level of flexibility and empathy. When a student suddenly stops going to classes, a teacher can call his parents, but when a street dweller misses sessions where do you find him? The irregularity of the lives of the ALS learners becomes a considerable challenge in their academic life.

The missing student

For Stella, the role was no longer just “teacher” but also shepherd and intercessor. She recalls how she earnestly prayed to God that someone would finally find 70-year old Tatay Reynaldo, the oldest ALS learner in their batch, who had been missing for months. 3 months after Stella’s prayer, someone saw Tatay Reynaldo along a major thoroughfare in Manila. “Feeling ko talaga inanswer ako ni God (I feel like God really answered my prayer),” she shares.

The 26-year old cannot deny that her professional growth in AJKFI parallels her spiritual development. When asked about the biggest challenge she had to face during her 3 years in AJKFI, Stella shared about “an intense internal struggle” and the discouraging experience of several learners dropping out, leading to a low number of graduates. “I doubted my calling and felt my faith wavering under the weight of my responsibilities as a ‘panganay,’” she confessed.

Her biggest challenge yet

It was during this shaky time that Stella started praying the rosary and began training as a lector at a nearby parish. “...Through persistent prayers, unwavering love and support from my family, and the invaluable guidance of Kalinga, especially Fr. Flavie, I began to find my strength. Their encouragement helped me rebuild my resilience,” she added.

This school year 2024 – 2025, Stella welcomed 25 learners, one of the

biggest classes to date. The newly-hired Stella is a far cry from today’s Stella version 2.0. She can see that she is exactly where she is supposed to be. “Each day, seeing the joyful faces of my learners as they grasp a new lesson warms my heart...These moments reaffirm my dedication and inspire me to continue making a difference, one lesson at a time,” Stella explains.

Wiser, more grounded, definitely more confident, this INFJ has found a mission to build her life on. ■

Be a partner-in-mission!

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The 5Ps of how to help: **Pesos, Products, Presence, Promotions, & Prayers** help the most vulnerable sectors of society, the homeless & the wounded re-create themselves.

SVD TO KICK OFF 150TH ANNIV CELEBRATION

by Nirva Delacruz



SVD FRATERS ARE ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE AT THE DIVINE WORD SEMINARY IN TAGAYTAY CITY.



THE FIRST DIVINE WORD MISSION HOUSE WAS IN STEYL, NETHERLANDS.

How does a group of religious men stay relevant 150 years after their foundation? According to the outgoing Provincial of the SVD – Philippine Central Province (SVD – PHC) Fr. Jerome Marquez, SVD, it will happen only through “a renewal.”

As the SVD – PHC anticipates the 150th anniversary of the foundation of its congregation, Societas Verbi Divini (Society of the Divine Word), in September 2025, the province gears up to en flesh the chosen theme “Witnessing to the Light: From Everywhere for Everyone” in the third quarter of 2024. “Definitely, [the 150th anniversary] is a call for renewal. Every jubilee is a celebration of who we were in the past, our beginnings; where we are now; and where we’re going,” explained Fr. Marquez, who is not completing his term as Provincial because of his recent election as one of the General Councilors of the congregation, which will require him to be based in Rome.

While concrete details of events and initiatives for the celebration have yet to be finalized, Fr. Marquez said the activities would focus on spiritual and cultural programs that are meant to renew the congregation and inspire “more zeal [among the SVD religious] as missionaries.”

According to the priest, activities could be anything from an outreach to vocation animation, or a missions conference. “Whatever that may be it will be a renewal, a celebration and a challenge in the advent of AI and technology,” he explained.

Founded By St. Arnold Janssen, a German priest, on September 8, 1875, the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the SVD today boasts of 5,754 priests and religious in 79 countries. The SVD has been at the forefront of the missionary efforts of the Church since its inception, sending missionaries all over the world. ■

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AJKFI HOSTS 2 MED MISSIONS FOR EJK VICTIMS, HOMELESS

- 175 medical check-ups;
- 101 dental check-ups/tooth extractions;
- 105 vision screening and free reading glasses
- 27 participants for Basic Life Support

Program Paghilom also collaborated with CFC Answering the Cry of the Poor (ANCOP)’s Wellness on Wheels Mobile Clinic (WOW), together with individual doctors and nurses, to have a medical - dental mission for the families of the drug war victims on August 17 at the Arnold Janssen Bahay Kalinga.

52 ECG tests; 65 adult medical check-ups; 30+ pediatric check-ups; 58 blood tests; 50 urine tests; as well as free eye glasses, medicine, and vitamins. It was a chance for people to address long-standing health concerns. ■



FR. FREDDIE SABADO, SVD GIVES THE HOMILY DURING THE HOLY MASS TO MARK THE 9TH ANNIVERSARY OF AJKC ON JULY 16.

We also see the value of the opportunity given to us, not everyone can work here,” he added. In closing, Fr. Sabado emphasized supernatural motives for working in AJKFI. “Christ is the center and the reason for our service. And we give our lives so that we will be pleasing to Him. If God is the one giving direction to our lives, let's hold on to that. If you trust in God, He won't let you down,” he said.

Inspired by the verse John 15:16, “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you”, the 9th year anniversary celebration took place on July 17, Wednesday, a “Kain-Ligo” day on which the Center served a total of 444 street dwellers, who came for free meals and showers.

Games, ice cream, & more

To add to the festive air of the Center, Liberty Cielo Llagas and Lalaine Piloneo of AMBAG Microfinance facilitated parlor games for our dear street dwellers who were waiting in line. Several street dwellers also got the chance to show off their singing prowess through “Kalinga Got Talent”. Without a doubt, the day was extra special because of the kaldereta-laing-fruit salad menu; an ice cream cart that served everyone a cold dessert; and loot bags with a burger, cookies, water, a drinking bottle, an alcohol spray

bottle, and ready-to-drink tea.

Those, who came in later, got an extra treat because towards 1:00PM, a boy celebrating his birthday donated 180 packs of spaghetti and chicken; 2 boxes of doughnuts; and several boxes of water, which were given away.

The Center's donors went all out with their anniversary donations, so much so that there was enough to share with other institutions. The Missionaries of Charity in Tondo received 30 packs of spaghetti and chicken and 30 hamburgers. The CTM community – Provincialate; Catholic Trade; Logos; DWEA; as well as the drivers and maintenance personnel received burgers as well.

It was a day to look back to in thanksgiving to God's Providence to the Center, which continues to carry out its mission to the homeless of Manila. ■



THE 9TH ANNIVERSARY MENU AT THE CENTER INCLUDED KALDERETA AND LAING, AS WELL AS ICE CREAM.

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Christ is the center and the reason for our service. And we give our lives so that we will be pleasing to Him.