



BALAY EUPHRASIE DAVAO

NEWS LETTER 3, 2018

Feel at home

This phrase is very common to us that sometimes we just listen through our ears and our minds. However, when we sense “Feeling at home!” with our hearts, we live differently.

*When we feel at home with a room,
we feel comfortable and sleep very well.*

*When we feel at home with a place,
we sense a connection and integrity.*

*When we feel at home in the kitchen,
we turn raw things into delicious meals.*

*When we feel at home with the nature,
we nurture and take care of them with our creativity.*

*When we feel at home with our typology,
we are happy and ready to be transformed.*

*When we feel at home with our body,
we live with a grateful heart.*

*And when we feel at home on the earth,
we bring peace, happiness and love in serving the whole creation.*

Magarita Pham Thi Thuy Giang RNDM



Prayer Life

THE DAY OF CELEBRATION...

It was a Memorial Day for us on the 19th August as we celebrated our house feast as well as we sponsored the Eucharistic celebration in our Parish. This year, the Philippines celebrate the year of Clergy and Consecrated persons. In our Parish each Religious community sponsors the Liturgy every third Sunday of the month.

On 19th August we were responsible for the liturgy and hosting the monthly meeting. We worked in different groups for various activities for this auspicious day. During the mass we introduced our Congregation through a power point presentation. It was a special day for our community. We celebrated our House Feast on that day instead of 15th August. After the Eucharistic celebration all the priests, sisters, brothers and some of our friends joined us at Balay Euphrasie. Most of them had come for the first time to our house. Everyone was very happy and all appreciated our place and hospitality.



Mary Anna

LECTIO DIVINA....BURNING LIGHT

*"I listen; he is the one that speaks.
I am enlightened; he is the light
I am the ear; he is the word"*

(St. Augustine)

Every week we come together for Lectio Divina. Through the Scripture I see deeply the presence of God. As I focus on the life of Jesus, I feel this light burning inside me. I continue to listen to what God speaks to me. Through our sharing I feel enlightened, enriched and guided. This helps me in the way I live. Lectio Divina allows me to see myself as an oil lamp. I share my light with others. I need oil so that my lamp will keep burning.

Nipa Elizabeth Pereira



**Praying the Rosary
with some children in SGR village**



Time for each other



SOCIAL NIGHT



*"We do better together, not alone. We need to play together to feel alive. We need to share together to feel whole. At any age, we need to feel, recreate, breathe!"
(Patricia Miller)*

I am privileged to share about our social night experiences in Balay Euphrasie, where we share our joys, happiness and fun together. From my experience here, I can say that this is a joyful community. We have lots of fun especially during our recreation hours through various indoor games, watching movies and doing some action songs. Recreation is very helpful and we share our energy and insight with one another and build healthier relationships.

Agatha Nriame



VIETNAMESE CULTURAL NIGHT

It was a very special day for us to pray and share Vietnamese culture on 2nd September. We prayed especially for our country on the Independence Day and for Vietnamese province. The beauty of Vietnamese culture still remains in the hearts of our sisters. And here are some of their feelings...

Ridalin: "I love the legend Lac Long Quan and Au Co which was the story of the first ancestors of Vietnamese people. Your people inherited a wonderful tradition and beautiful characteristics of hardworking, unity and devotion."

Priscila: "I love Vietnamese traditional dress. They are very beautiful and charming"

Manjula: "I was impressed by Vietnamese province history and mission. The war and famine in the past were terrible but our pioneers didn't give up because of their love for God and for Vietnamese people"

Pushon: "I was touched by Vietnamese language when you read the poem during prayer. I like to hear it because it is very sweet and special."



Magarita Pham Thi Thuy Giang



“EDEN GARDEN” in Davao

Here in Davao every month we explore some beautiful places around and on 7th September we got the opportunity to visit Eden Garden.

As the day dawned we woke up and with excitement got ready for the journey towards Eden Garden. Our eyes were wide open to view all the scenery around the 80 hectare garden with the help of a local guide. Then many of us went for some exciting games while others enjoying the beauty of the places



according to each ones' interest. We explored different areas of Eden Garden and the butterfly garden was very exciting. The peacocks were so joyful and danced for us. Few hours stay in Eden Garden was really a time to thank God for the creation. God is really so good and created this beautiful space to admire.

On the way home, we had the chance to visit the Marist Fathers' novitiate house close to the Eden Garden.



Beauty Benedicta Gosal

“SALAMAT PO” (Thank You)

On Sundays, each group takes turn to cook. When my day came, three of us went to the market and bought grocery for our cooking. I was so excited and eager to use some Tagalog words that I had just learned the day before. When we got out from the tri-cycle, I immediately said “Salamat...” with a long accent, then I suddenly remembered and turned back and said aloud “PO !!!”. He laughed with the happy face and replied “Correct, correct!”

Next, I saw a lady selling shrimps with a serious face. She didn't respond to us even with a look. After paying the money, I said aloud: “Salamat.....and then....Po!!!”. She laughed and changed her attitude. I turned back and I caught her loving eyes looking at me with joy. I was so happy to bring joy to the people in this sacred land where we live for six months.

Magarita Pham Thi Thuy Giang



TAKING CARE OF MOTHER EARTH

The Earth is our Mother, our home. We all live in the same home.

Being aware of this, everyone in Balay Euphrasie takes responsibility to take care of our Mother Earth by doing gardening in different ways as picking grass, sweeping leaves, watering plants. We enjoy being with nature, take time to walk and observe. We talk to the creation and live in harmony with them. Nature teaches us about hospitality, community, flexibility and generosity. We can get new energy from the Earth when we walk gently and consciously on the ground. We are part of the community of life on Earth. Once again, Mother Earth reminds us that every action, every breath we draw, even every single thought we think has an impact on the world around us. We are called to respect and take care of her, with our creativity, understanding, compassion and love.

Cecilia Nguyen Thi Doan Thuy



THE JACKFRUIT TREE AND A STORY OF MY SPIRITUAL LIFE

From the first days, Sister Lissy asked us to choose and take care of any one tree in the garden. I fell in love with a weak jackfruit tree which is near the dining room. However, I still hesitated because I thought it would die and be cut. Every day, I passed near it, looked at it and said "I am sorry!" Almost one month passed. One day, suddenly Sister Anita asked me: "Which tree did you choose to take care of?" I told her my hesitation and she advised me to give a little more "TLC" (it means Tender-love-care). Every day, I touched it and healed it. It grows happily and bears fruit now. I talk to it and it talks to me:

"My dear sister, thank you for caring for me and saving my life. You might learn something deeply from my situation. You can still bear fruits even though you are not well inside. Your soul is eaten by worm and termites under your beautiful cover.

Until you see your bad fruits of impatience, dead leaves of judgment and dried branches of stubbornness...You realize that you need to come to God. God will give you special 'TLC'. You will be healed, live happily and bear many good fruits in your life."

I thank God that the Jackfruit tree gives me a useful lesson in my spiritual life. Now I come to meet God knowing my deepest desire... Good bye jackfruit tree! See you again.

Magarita Pham Thi Thuy Giang, RNDM

Enjoy Cooking

BUM, BENG, XENG, BOM, CHOANG...(Different sounds in the Kitchen)

My first experience of Sunday cooking in Davao was not without uneventful happenings! Sometimes pots, pans, spoons, dishes and knives ... were dropped and we just laughed together and apologized because we were not used to the kitchen. That lovely experience gives me a lot of funny memories.

We come from different cultures with different flavors. We worked out a way together to make our diverse food more tasty and attractive when we cook. And at the end we enjoyed our traditional dishes in gratefulness and happiness. Every Sunday we are excited because we have the opportunity to serve our sisters many different new dishes. Thank God that we experienced the sacred lessons from the salt, pepper, sugar jar ... They are inanimate objects but they become sweet flavor that helps us feel happy through the meal. By cooperating in cooking we have deeper understanding of each other and Kuya Jun (our cook) who is so devoted and hardworking to take care of our everyday meal from Monday – Saturday with love. Salamat Po!!!



Maria Nguyen Thi Hoi

MARKET IN DAVAO



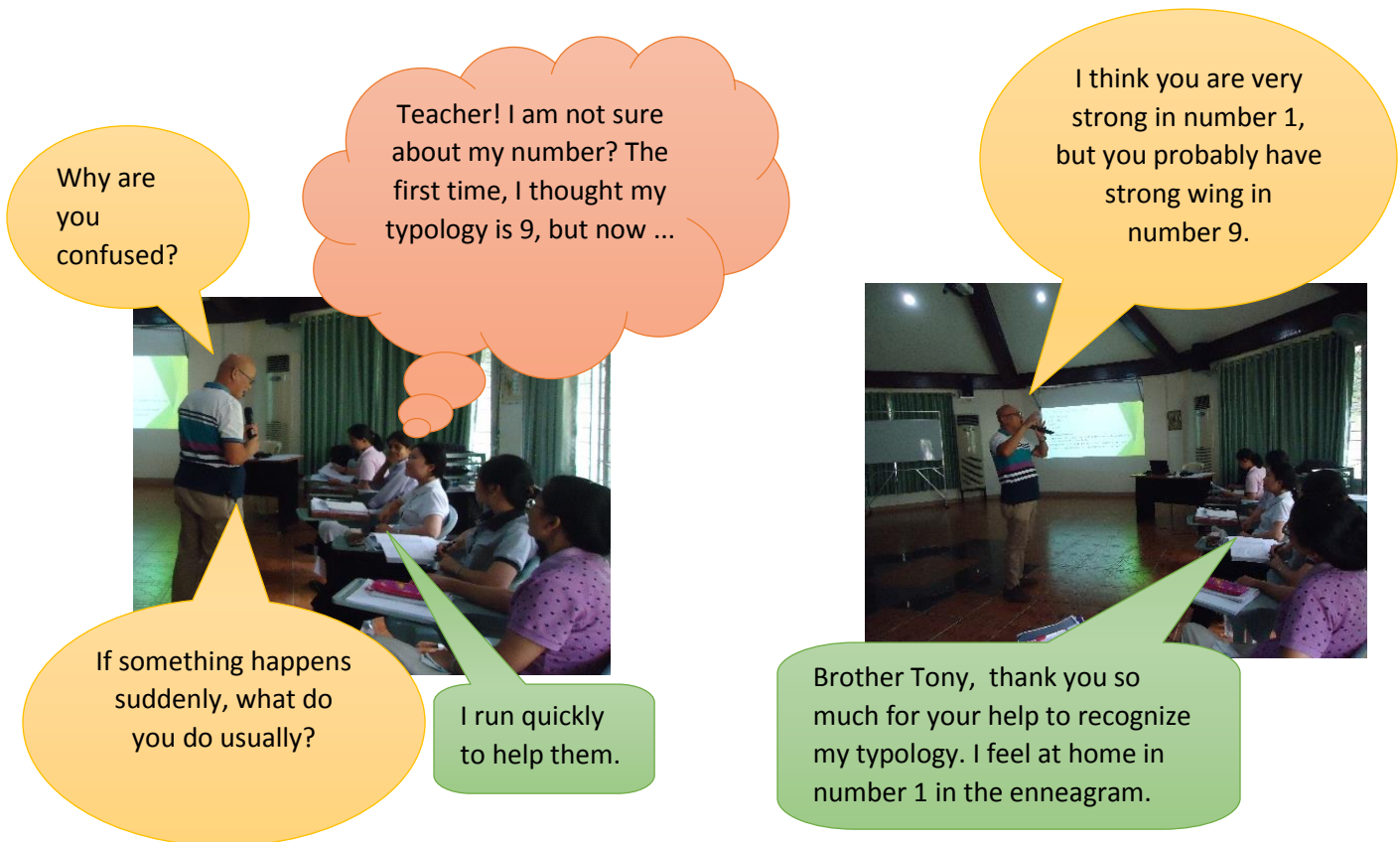
Every Saturday, one of us accompanies Sister Martha for the weekly marketing. Last Saturday morning at 5:30 am I had the chance to go with her. I was so excited to explore this place. I experienced something different from my country. There are many kinds of things which are sold in separate places such as Fish, Meat, Vegetables and Fruits. We walked around to buy what we need and this brought joy to the sellers.

This journey of Saturday gave me the insight into how a responsible mother serves many of us in this Balay Euphrasie. Thank you very much sister Martha for your untiring service. At the same time, it is a good chance for us to be introduced to the people of Davao City.

Pushon Rozario

Learning experiences

ENNEAGRAM



Through the study of Enneagram personality type we are very happy to know ourselves deeply.

We are very glad and grateful to the people who gave us positive as well as negative feedbacks to help us to be who we are today. When we knew about our typology, transformation began to take place. We were so excited, free and felt at home with our typologies because we knew our personalities, what values we needed to develop and what vulnerability we are called to look into. From now on, we know how to manage and accept ourselves and learn to be humble to understand each other so that we can build good relationships in communities

Maria Nguyen Thi Hoi

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

We had the privilege to journey with Sr. Libera to the roots of our human growth and development as well as to see our daily conflicts and its resolutions. There were different exercises for both human development and conflict resolutions. We had many experiences, new learning and insights. Among all the experiences, “The Womb Experience” was appreciated by most of us. Through this we were able to go back to our roots where we were formed and began our life. These experiences led us to be grateful to our dear parents, especially to our Mom. And I express my love to her and how I felt in the womb in this poem.

You gave me life....

*Mom you decided to give a new life
A life to another human being and that was I
I as fertilized egg started growing in your womb
Slowly developed into an embryo, then to fetus
Through placenta you transfer nutrients to me
Thank you, mom.*

*Each part of my body started forming
And gradually took its shape and fully developed
I grew in length and weight
I was comfortable and safe in your womb
Thank you, mom.*

*To bring me up healthy
You made good choices to see doctor
Maintained your weight, had balanced diet
You were careful with your food and drink
Thank you, mom.*

*When I was fully developed, ready to enter the world
You gave me birth and gave me new life
You carried me for nine months through
all pains and suffering.
Thank you, mom,*

Mary Anna





Integrated human Sexuality

After learning about sexuality with Sister Anita, I feel that I understand myself more. I feel grateful to God because throughout the subject, I can unravel my personality and how I live my religious life.

In my opinion, before I learned this topic I did not want to talk about sexuality openly because of its taboos and said to myself that I offered my life to God to live consecrated life, I had given up everything. If I had any feelings, I repressed them by prayer. I did a lot of work to forget about it and sometimes I felt guilty for having those feelings.

Now I recognize that I avoided my feelings and maybe I was rigid with myself as well as others. I need to transform myself to live human life fully and to serve people for the reign of God. Furthermore, I confirm that “sexuality has within it a power that can help us relate to others warmly and with affection”. If I try to deny it, I become more and more rigid. To follow Jesus more closely, I need to live more lovingly and sublimate my God given energies into generativity. It is a gift to love and to be loved.



Thanh Thuy Rndm

My Three vows



After the session on Elements of consecrated life by Srs. Claudia and Kate, I was inspired to write something about this. As a religious, the vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience are like our religious ornaments. After taking this vows we nurture our life, we freely respond to the call of God. For me these three vows are like branches connected to a tree which gives me shade, peace and calmness. This tree is my God which nourishes me spiritually and mentally in everyday life. Through the vow of obedience I obey

in faith, the lawful commands of my authority in accordance with the constitutions. Through the vow of chastity I commit myself to celibacy and to a life of chastity without compromise. This vow makes me grow in God's unconditional love in faith. This unconditional love helps me to love universally. It makes me feel that my love is for the whole of the creation. The vow of poverty helps me to live my life very simply and frugally. Through this vow, I share my spiritual and intellectual gifts with others. By sharing my gifts I empty myself. I feel these three vows are like my vein, they provide me new and fresh energy.

Laily Margaret Rozario

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

I express my three days experience of Theological reflection with Claudia Stecker in the following poem.

GOD WORKS IN OUR INCARNATED REALITY

Socio-Theological reflection, our way to transformation in all humility

Experiencing God in our incarnated reality

Listening with an inner ear

Seeing anew with the mind's eye.

It is a way of perceiving reflectively

The situation and experience we encounter

The feeling and images that appear , look at it

The insights and the action we wish to take from it.



And yes it is to ponder 'how'

And 'where' the divine may encounter us now

To lead us in God's ways

Shaping our perception and experience every day.

It makes us dare to be vulnerable,

It makes us believe that we are capable

of acts of love and mercy in sincerity

Accepting our own fears and insecurity.

God works in our incarnated reality

Showing us the new possibility

With hope and assurance in clarity

That better things lie ahead in charity.

It is an essential element in faith formation

Without being judgmental in declaration

It is all about knowing and being known

In opening ourselves to God as His own.

It leads not to be critical at events

Encourages to look at them as they vent

More of humbling and dealing gently

Focusing on the purpose of God willingly.

Thank you Claudia for sharing with us your deep reflection and understanding.

Manjula

WE ARE ONE - WE ARE LOVE



**“Our longing to be one and to be love
Inspires us to be an RNDM Earth community
Our shared life in community finds its source in God – Trinity,
Who has inscribed the rhythm of Divine relationships
into the fabric of creation.”**

(The chapter document 2008 “WE ARE ONE, WE ARE LOVE”)