

the examiner

IT'S CHRISTMAS!

Popular opinion speculates on “the true meaning of Christmas” in films, literary works, music and various other channels of communication especially at this time of the year. Whether there is consensus, acknowledgment or conscious practice among media consumers, we have no way to measure.

One thing is sure though, associated traditions like rest, gifts, decors, food, family time and joyous celebrations persist – things that are all undeniably good and human. Such are wonderful manifestations of the much-awaited liturgical season recognized by many even in an increasingly secular world. But perhaps, we still have to keep some things in check.

Pope Benedict XVI reminds us of the objective motive behind our Christmas celebrations. “The reason why we can go forward joyfully ... lies in the fact that our salvation is at hand. The Lord is coming! With this knowledge, we set out on the journey of Advent, preparing ourselves to celebrate with faith the extraordinary event of the Lord’s birth,” the Roman Pontiff said in his homily on the first Sunday of Advent.

The month of December is thus properly that which revolves in anticipation of the God made Man, urging us to celebrate the season by sharing intangible gifts – service, virtue, wisdom and value – more than imparting finite ones.

This outlook is especially needful in a year marked not only by historical triumphs (e.g. when Pacquiao bagged his 7th world title, and Peñaflores is dubbed CNN’s hero of the year) but by unfortunate events (typhoons and floods assailed the country), there has been an ever greater call for dynamic young women from the universities and work force with a desire to contribute through their ordinary duties of work and study.

At Tanglaw University Center, volunteers and participants endeavor to live the true meaning of Christmas by giving importance to receiving formation and in turn being of service not only in preparation for the season, but throughout the year.

“From the cradle at Bethlehem, Christ tells you and me that he needs us. He urges us to live a Christian life to the full - a life of self sacrifice, work and joy,” writes St. Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei, in *Christ is Passing By*.

This month’s issue of **The Examiner**, Tanglaw’s official newsletter, highlights these efforts, to remind each of us that the spirit of Christmas is at hand - all year round.



REELTIME!

by Rea Malite

Tanglaw University Center conducted REELTIME: An video forum on media awareness in August. The activity aims to increase people's awareness on political, cultural, social, psychological and other vital issues of community through media.

The cultural committee presented videos from TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design). Each video consists of three-minute speech of professionals from various fields. The messages were brief but powerful and moving. Some of the videos presented deal with development, journalism, happiness and success.

After each video presentation, participants shared their comments, opinions, and experiences on the topic. The activity helped to remind everyone not to be merely passive viewers but to be critical audiences – sifting the information they receive and discerning what is worth believing in.

REELTIME helped a great deal to make the participants realize the need to be interactive with the media so that we get what we truly deserve.



26/9 TYPHOON ONDOY RELIEF



For residents of Metro Manila 26 September 2009 could, in some way, rival the impact of 9/11. Few people heeded warnings about typhoon Ondoy. Many dismissed it as just another storm. Unfortunate indeed. In a matter of minutes, floods rose from ankle to waist to chest until whole houses, nay, villages were submerged. Thereafter, one horror story followed another as people went up to their roofs or held on to floating debris for dear life.

The day after, devastation was everywhere. Lives lost. Properties damaged. Nerves wracked.

But as sure as the sun came shining a couple of days after, so too did the Filipino resiliency and generosity breakthrough. Relief operations were undertaken in almost every corner of the Metropolis by rich and poor, young and old in a show of solidarity that was simply incredible.

Tanglaw too was host to such operations with Rosehill staff and students spearheading the drive to collect and distribute goods to the typhoon victims.

Truly, there is nothing like adversity to bring out the best in people.

TANGLAW UNIVERSITY CENTER

Tanglaw is a project of the Philippine Foundation for Cultural and Educational Development (PFCED), and supervised by Kalinangan Youth Foundation (KALFI), a non-stock, non-profit NGO. It aims to provide young women with a venue to widen their horizons, realize the spiritual dimension of their existence, develop their character to the full and be persons more sensitive to the concerns of others. Activities in the Center include rural service projects, catechism classes, study seminars, tutorial programs, professional development talks, concerts, cultural get-togethers and outings.

Activities of a spiritual and doctrinal nature are entrusted to Opus Dei, a Personal Prelature of the Catholic Church.

Catechism



Excursions



Cultural Get-togethers



UNIV Research Congress



World Youth Day



JMJ 2011
MADRID

DOST Mentoring Program



ORI at Philippine Science HS



Ako Mismo ang susuporta sa sining.



Ako Mismo ang magtuturo sa aking kapwa.



Ako Mismo ang magpapasaya sa mga bata.



by Kyra Villamala

“Ako Mismo.” This line has recently set a trend in the Filipino society, from the moment it was released in mainstream media. It was widely recognized after its television advertisement which was aired through ABS-CBN and featured several noteworthy individuals, including celebrities like Angel Locsin, Maxene Magalona, and Chris Tiu. The movement received positive response among the public, having supporters pronouncing their resolutions to better themselves for the society. Ako Mismo has even spread in the web, and has even influenced the wearing of Ako Mismo dog tags by the youth.

Last November 27, 2009, Saturday, the Ako Mismo campaign hit Tanglaw University Center, in line with the Center’s aim to cultural development and immersion. The talk featured guest speaker Mac Adriano, partnership coordinator of the Ako Mismo team. The talk was a lively one, which began with a video of the

campaign. This was then followed by an elaboration by the speaker who stressed the true essence of the campaign, which was that each person could only effectively change society by starting the change within oneself.

He also emphasized the importance of little things most people ignore, and how each person must take the initiative to start the change and not wait for a spark like the publicity of the Ako Mismo campaign to be able to see the urgency of personal improvement. Kuya Mac also mentioned the importance of individual resolutions that start to change the course of how society works.

In the end, the talk inspired young minds to make a difference in the simplest ways they could through concrete resolutions like, “Ako mismo ang magtatapon ng aking basura”, “Ako mismo ang mag-aaral”, “Ako mismo ang tutulong sa kapwa ko.”

