

#FollowersOfChrist: #MessengersOfChrist

This year #FollowersOfChrist has been inspired by the upcoming Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment as well as World Youth Day 2019 in Panama and so will be focusing on the past themes of World Youth Days! Inspired after returning from my own trip to the Philippines, we turn to the theme of World Youth Day 1995 in Manila:

**“As the Father sent me, so am I sending you”
(Jn 20: 21)**

At the end of every Mass is a send-off, a chance to go out and bring to the world the love of God through our good works. The early Disciples of Jesus were travelers themselves, visiting places far and wide to spread the message of Love. So let’s take a look at how going out into the world takes us #FollowersOfChrist and makes us #MessengersOfChrist

Our Duty as #MessengersOfChrist

When Jesus asked the Apostles to leave their homes and follow Him, He also expected them to be more than just followers – He searched for messengers. Our duty as #FollowersOfChrist is not just limited to following Church teachings and loving God; our duty is extended to loving the Church, and by Church, we mean the people of God. By showing love to others, we show the love of God through action. We send the message that God loves everyone around us.

Connecting to a #UniversalChurch

We are part of the Church, which is God’s home. But we have to understand that God’s home is much bigger than we imagine! God’s home is a *universal* church! Going out into the world to share God’s love, we will find more people doing the same. What happens when we connect to these people? An abundance of love and a Church united in our mission!



A #GlobalFamily Connected in Love

The universal Church is far more than just a group of people gathered for one mission – it is a family deeply rooted in God’s love! Beyond any language barriers, cultural and generational differences, right at the heart of all things is God’s love that connects us. We are able to relate with one another and discover what makes us the same but also what makes us all unique! We realize that there is nothing to fear in our differences, as long as our mission to share God’s love remains the same.

As we “go forth to love and serve the Lord,” remember that we are not alone in this mission. Remember that there is an abundance of love that comes from God and that there is an entire world full of people who share that love with others.

Below: This past September I had the opportunity to present The Moving Prayer to over 200 youth at Sto. Niño Parish In Lipa, Batangas, Philippines! There was definitely an abundance of love and a shared mission in igniting the hearts and spirits of the youth, thanks to their passionate leaders!



by Jessica Abejar



While in Manila, I met with members of DOMNET, a network of Dominican high schools, colleges, and universities in the Philippines. As a member of the Dominican Youth Movement USA, it was a delight to meet with those who shared in the same charism of preaching with your life!

youth activities +service & leadership*

All are welcome to join us for FREE activities before & after the Filipino Mass held every first Sunday of the month at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island!

Planned Activities

Sept 2 Liturgical dance: “Papuri sa Diyos”
Learn about Fatima & the Rosary
Oct 7 Honor Our Lady of Fatima
Pray the Rosary
Filipino American History Month
Nov 4 Collect canned goods for Thanksgiving
Celebrate Thanksgiving
Dec 2 Experience a Filipino Advent and Christmas season
Making Christmas cards

Schedule

12:30PM (or after the 11:15AM Mass): Activities
1:00PM: Rosary and Novena
1:30PM: Filipino Mass
2:30PM (or after Mass) until 3:30PM: Activities

Location

Pilgrim Hall at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island
258 Eastport-Manor Rd
Manorville, NY 11949

*CALLING ALL TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS!

Serve as activity leaders to earn service hours!

For More Information

Contact Jessica Abejar at 516-859-0714