



1st SVD-PHN Mission Partners – Youth Sector Virtual Workshop
Society of the Divine Word – Philippine Northern Province



29th August 2020

To All Participants of the 1st SVD-PHN Mission Partners – Youth Sector Virtual Workshop

Re: Summary Report, Results and Reflections of the 1st SVD-PHN Mission Partners –
Youth Sector Virtual Workshop
16th August 2020 via Zoom

Dear SVD Confreres, Mission Partners and Friends,

We are grateful for another historic 1st in the Philippine Northern Province, the SVD-PHN Mission Partners – Youth Sector Virtual Workshop.

First, amid the limitations brought by the COVID19 pandemic, we have managed to find ways to stay connected and to be animating and animated. Taking advantage of cyber technology and the benefits of social media, we continue to come together and reach out to as far as the internet could bring us.

Second, our recent endeavors spurred from the initiatives of our lay mission partners, the most recent of which from our youth leaders of the SVD Cagayan District. This is an affirmation to the structure presented by former Superior General Fr. Antonio Pernia during 1st ASPAC SVD Lay Partners Workshop. That initiatives and the direction of movement for our lay partners and groups should come from below, from our lay partners themselves.

Third, we are truly grateful for the enormous support we continue to enjoy from our Provincial Superior, our new Mission Secretary and SVD-PHN as a whole. The growing collaboration and partnership between the SVDs and its mission partners is taking root more than ever.

Attached herewith is the Summary Report, Results and Reflections of the Youth Sector Virtual Workshop. We will be sharing a google drive link containing the directory, the talks and video presentations during the virtual meeting.

We thank the Lord for the opportunity to have been part of this blessed encounter.

In the Divine Word,

Michael Joseph “Mike” and Mary Geraldine “GeeO” Paderon
SVD-PHN Mission Partners C



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SUMMARY REPORT

1st SVD-PHN MISSION PARTNERS YOUTH SECTOR VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

August 16, 2020 | via Zoom

Society of the Divine Word – Philippine Northern Province



Initiated by the SVD Youth of Cagayan District in partnership with the SVD-PHN Mission Partners, the 1st SVD-PHN Mission Partners - Youth Sector Virtual Workshop hit the airwaves on 16 August 2020 via Zoom with the theme "Let Me Be the Bearer of Your Love". It was also an opportune time to celebrate the 1st anniversary of the SVD-PHN Mission Partners.

Participants from the Philippine Northern Province were youth leaders from the parishes of the SVD Cagayan District, a youth leader of Divine Word College of Laoag, SVD Friends of Abra, a former volunteer of the Young Missionaries of the Divine Word and an alumnus of Divine Word College of Laoag and SVD-PHN Mission Partners of La Union. Noteworthy was the presence of two representatives from the University of San Carlos of the Philippine Southern Province. Three SVDs joined the Virtual Meeting - Fr. Provincial Romy Fajardo, SVD, PHN Mission Secretary Fr. Emil Pati, SVD and Fr. Venerando Yator, SVD of St. Peter the Martyr Parish, Pamplona, Cagayan.

The objectives of the Youth Sector Virtual Workshop were –

- To share experiences of being SVD Youth Mission Partners.
- To seek collaboration and partnership with the youth sector of the SVD-PHN Mission Partners.
- To learn new directions from the latest SVD General Chapter towards lay partners, from the results of the 1st International SVD Lay Partners Spirituality Course in 2017, the 1st Asia-Pacific SVD Lay Partners Workshop and the directions from the 2019 SVD-PHN Mission Partners Workshop.

The Meeting is also a response to the results of the 1st SVD-PHN Mission Partners Workshop on August 3-4, 2019.



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- Starting them young: that every student of an SVD school graduates identifying himself/herself with the SVD charism/tatak SVD. Strengthening the spiritual formation of students in SVD schools, identifying themselves as missionaries while in school and after they graduate. (*Challenges to the SVD-PHN Mission Partners*)
- Revitalizing the SVD Youth Ministry program and Young Missionaries of the Divine Word. (*Challenges to the SVD-PHN Mission Partners*)

We opened with the reading of a Bible verse and the singing of the Meeting's theme song through an pre-recorded animated video with youth leaders of the St. Joseph Parish Youth Ministry, Claveria Cagayan interpreting the song "Let Me Be the Bearer of Your Love". (*Video attached herewith.*)

Fr. Provincial Romy Fajardo, SVD in his opening remarks exhorted the youth and reminded them that God will always be their helpmate in becoming true witnesses of the Word, bearers of His love. His presence during the virtual meeting meant a lot to the young people present. It was an affirmation of his continuous commitment to lay initiatives.

There were three speakers –

- Joffrey de la Cruz who shared his experiences as a 2-year fulltime volunteer of the Young Missionaries of the Divine Word of the PHN SVD Youth Ministry after graduating from college in 1992.
- Couple Mike and GeeO Paderon outlined the directions of the SVD-PHN Mission Partners and the SVD Lay Partners as a whole.
- Fr. Emil Pati, SVD, PHN Mission Secretary on enhancing collaboration with lay partners from an SVD perspective.

After the 3 talks, the young people had a number of questions mostly directed on present structures and programs of the Province for youth mission partners and the revival of the Young Missionaries of the Divine Word Program. Many expressed interest to the program. The Young Missionaries of the Divine Word is a 2-year program of the SVD Youth Ministry in the early 1990s that enabled youth leaders after finishing their undergraduate studies to enter into a fulltime volunteer program. The full cycle of the Program included pre-immersion, in-service (immersion) and post-immersion. During the immersion stage, which is a whole year and may extend to only 2 years, the youth volunteer is assigned to a mission station upon request.

The Workshop tackled these questions. The group discussions, however, were done at a later time, within their own groups in a separate virtual meeting or in their parishes.

- As a youth, how do you see yourself as an SVD-PHN Mission Partner? What concrete ways have you been doing as a mission partner?



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- As a group, how can you help promote and organize the SVD-PHN Mission Partners among your peers and ranks?
Other highlights of the Meeting were –
- A 5-minute video “God Sentiments” with Jann Clarisse Galano, a youth leader of SVD Cagayan District sharing her personal reflections on a particular Gospel Reading. “God Sentiments” is a production of St. Joseph Parish Youth Ministry featuring different youth leaders sharing their personal reflections in the light of the Gospel on a particular Sunday. The video is posted on social media platforms like the St. Joseph Parish Youth Ministry FB page. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=606438396675784>
- A video presentation “Witness to the Word” in celebration of the 1st year Anniversary of the SVD-PHN Mission Partners highlighting some activities of our mission partners over the year. The video was created by a youth from the Family Apostolate, John Paderon.

All throughout the Meeting, Raffy Carinan of St. Joseph Parish Youth Ministry and college student of Divine Word College of Laoag was host and facilitator. Maverick Jann Esteban was in charge of the technical aspect.

The profound experience during the Youth Sector Virtual Workshop reminds us these words from former Superior General Fr. Antonio Pernia, SVD, “What we need today in the new evangelization are men and women who are not afraid to show their thirst for God and are not ashamed to drink with delight from the living water of the Gospel.” Here, we see young men and women who are such. One bravely shares her reflection, “Often, it is not the task that is difficult but how some people look at me with disdain. *“Ubing ka pay.”* (You are just too young.) Despite the discouragement, frustration and fear, I realized especially after the Workshop that God has called me and that He will be my constant companion wherever He puts me. This is the biggest lesson I learned from the Workshop, not to be afraid and discouraged to be a bearer of His love.”

We have to take heart and care of this treasure. They are today’s Church and the future depends so much on them. “God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with Him in the building of the civilization of love.” (St. John Paul II)





RESULTS OF THE DIFFERENT WORKSHOPS

1st SVD-PHN MISSION PARTNERS YOUTH SECTOR VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

The following is a synthesis of the answers to the questions given for the group discussions.

As a youth, how do you see yourself as an SVD-PHN Mission Partner?

- Witnessing to the Word in my daily life and undertakings
- Sharing the Good News to others especially among our peers through our activities like bible sharing groups
- Becoming a Young Missionary of the Divine Word
- Modeling to our fellow youth. When they see the good in us, it will be easy to invite them as SVD-PHN Mission Partner
- Collaborate with the SVDs in our parish and school
- Getting more acquainted with the Arnoldus and SVD Spirituality and the four characteristic dimensions of the SVD
- Initiating and attending formation programs what will enable us to be better SVD-PHN Youth Mission Partners

What concrete ways have you been doing as a mission partner?

- Spreading the Word through social media
- As a peer counselor
- Attending activities organized by youth group, our parish, our archdiocese and the SVD-PHN Mission Partners
- Sharing what we have learned from meetings like this to other young people in our group and parish
- By showing care to others and our environment

As a group, how can you help promote and organize the SVD-PHN Mission Partners among your peers and ranks?

- Use of different social media platforms especially during the pandemic
- Share about St. Arnold Janssen, the SVDs and the SVD-PHN Mission Partners to our peers and among our ranks
- Attend future formation programs
- Use of printed materials such as infographics, brochures, newsletters
- Use of creative media like video that are appealing to all people especially the youth

As documented by Mary Geraldine "GeeO" Paderon
SVD-PHN Mission Partners Coordinator