



Verbum Dei Missionaries

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Editor Says

The distance beating of the drums and clashing of cymbals of the lion dance troops blasted through the quiet streets led my mind to wander through time. I remembered myself as a young kiddo getting excited with the Lunar New Year celebration. Of course, I looked forward to receive ang pows (red packets filled magically with money). Besides the little joy of feeling rich during this season, I knew that my diet would take a backseat with all the yummy goodies and food. You see, I was an obese child and my poor dad used to be in charge of my daily diet and exercise. However, my dad would turn a blind eye to my relentlessly stuffing of pineapple tarts, kueh bankit, kueh lapis and many other yummy cookies when we would visit our relatives and friends. So sedap (delicious)! Who would have the heart to stop a child from such simple enjoyment during this season?!

On the eve of the Lunar New Year, my grandmother and mother would be busy cooking typical Peranakan food. The whiff of their cooking made my dad, my sister and I to 'lau nuah' (drool)!

As dusk fell, all lights in our house would be switched on and a heavily laden table with Itek Tim soup, Beef Rendang, Ayam Buah Keluak, Salad with my grandma's special dressing, Sambal prawns, Sambal Timun, Babi Pon Teh and homemade achar and sambal balacan awaited us. This was because we would first gather at our altar before dinner to give thanks to God for the past year and to pray for good health and peace in the family for the new year. With heads solemnly bowed down, my dad would lead us in prayer.

We would stay up till past mid-night in order to welcome the New Year and wish our parents and grandma in the traditional Peranakan way. We would kui (kneel) and wished them 'pajang pajang umur (long life), hugged them and received our first batch of ang pows from each of them. Our elders would, in turn, give us their blessings for the New Year.

I am writing this reflection piece on the second day of Lunar New Year of the Rooster. There is always a feeling of nostalgia in me during this time of the year. I am no longer a fatty bomb kid. My grandma has passed away years ago. My parents are enjoying their golden years together. My sister is living in another country as a Verbum Dei Missionary. I am grateful for my wonderfully imperfect family even though I sometimes tend to take them for granted. I know that they will always be part of me as I am of them.

Selamat Taon Bahru! A Happy New Year!



New Verbum Dei Club! Seeds of the Living Word

We had our first meeting on 2nd January.
This new group will meet every 1st Sunday of the month.



School of the Word (SOW) was resumed after the Christmas break. We were honoured to have Sr. Maeve, a fellow Verbum Dei Missionary based in Brisbane, to perform a night of prayer and songs.

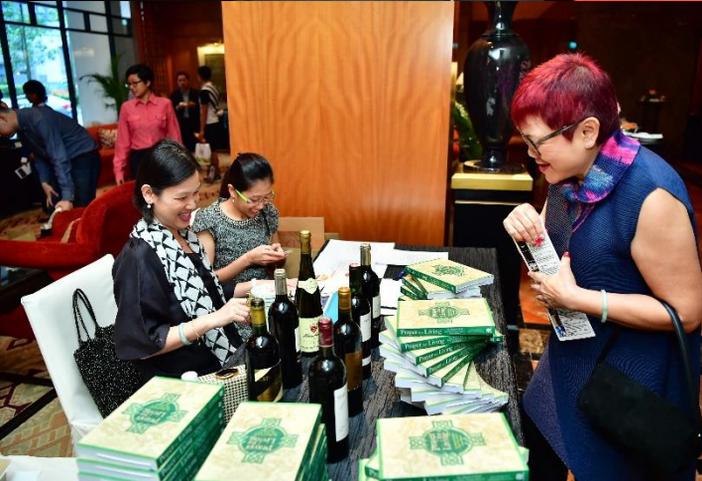
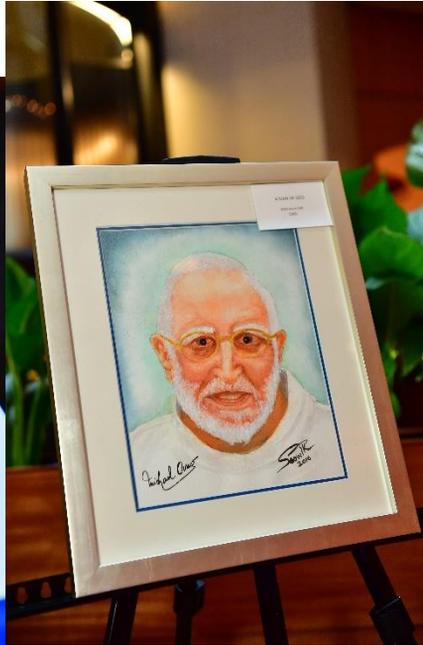


1ST SCHOOL OF
THE WORD OF 2017
“NEW BEGINNINGS”

Project HoPe Fundraising Auction & Dinner 2017

14th January @ The Regent Hotel Ballroom

Silent Auction:



Our Guests:



The Programme:



The Programme:

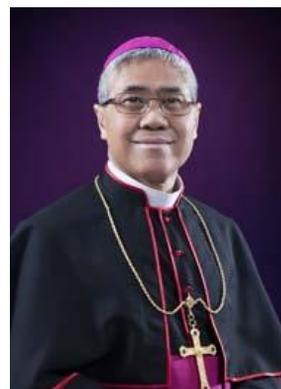




Thank you to our Verbum Dei disciples and friends for being part of our successful and fun fundraising dinner!



Archbishop William Goh's message to Verbum Dei Missionaries in Singapore:



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO THE VERBUM DEI SISTERS
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN SINGAPORE
(To be read at fundraising dinner on 14 January, 2017)

My dear Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I greet you in the name of the Lord, and congratulate you on the 20th anniversary of your mission in Singapore.

These twenty years have been fruitful years. You have been a great collaborator of the archdiocese, helping to form our Catholics in the Word and witnessing to what you preach, and the archdiocese of Singapore is deeply appreciative of your contribution to the deepening of the faith of our Catholics here through a love for the Word of God.

I am especially grateful to you for so readily taking on the challenges assigned to you in your ministry, particularly in directing the Archdiocesan Biblical Apostolate, which is very much in sync with the Verbum Dei charism, and teaching at CTIS. I note too, the very successful Bible Symposium which you held in conjunction with Bible Sunday in 2015, and your various publications, which are excellent guides for the laity in appreciating the Word and putting it into practice in their daily lives.

By your witness in word and in deed, a number of local Singaporeans have been inspired to join your community as religious priests and nuns – I am told there are 8 in all! This is a good sign that your apostolate is bearing fruits, especially given that there are so few vocations in Singapore. In choosing their calling in life, our young people are not only looking at what they can do to contribute to society, but they need to be moved by good role models. Thank you for being good role models of what it means to give one's life in meaningful service to the community and to the Church.

The next lap promises to be even more challenging for your Community as you work to anchor your mission more permanently and fully in Singapore. I applaud your courage and your fortitude in living out your mission in making the Word known and loved through your preaching, writings and retreat work. On this joyous occasion, I join you in entrusting your mission and vision to the Lord, and I wish you every success in your ministry.

Most Rev. William Goh
Archbishop of Singapore

2017



Happy Lunar New Year of the Rooster!

Have a great one!

FROM YOUR DEAREST VERBUM DEI MISSIONARIES
SR. MARIA JOSE, LETICIA, SANDRA & MONIKA