



Verbum Dei Missionaries

4 Sommerville Road

Singapore 358228

Tel: 62740251

Email: verbumdeisgapore@yahoo.com.sg

<http://www.verbumdeisingapore.org/>

May/June 2017

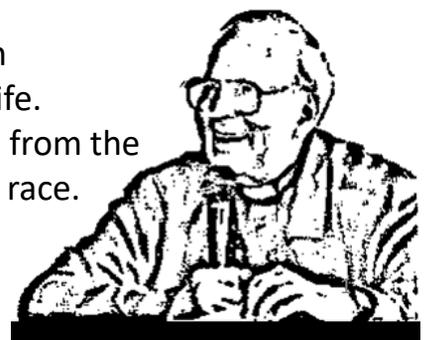
Editor says

Our founder, Fr. Jaime Bonet passed away on 25th June 2017 in Madrid. He was 91 years old. In 1940, when he was 14 years old, he told God in prayer, *"If you exist, make me happy."* In that same year, he entered the seminary, gave his life totally to God, who was his source of joy, and never looked back.

I met Fr. Jaime thrice in my life. In 2000, he was in our retreat house in Tagaytay, Philippines. He conducted the 1 month silent retreat which I attended. It was my first one month retreat ever. I remembered being so impressed by his passion and love for the Holy Trinity and Mother Mary through his preaching. He was funny too with his stories and jokes that he would tell as examples to drive in his points. At the end of that retreat, he interviewed me as I was about to start the Formation course (novitiate). I remembered being so nervous! In 2003, he was with my Formation course when we were doing our 1 month silent retreat at Loeches retreat centre, Madrid. I took my first vows after that retreat and Fr. Jaime was the one who celebrated the mass and received my vows. In 2005, I went to our retreat house at Siete Aguas, Valencia, to do my 1 month silent retreat. Fr. Jaime was the one who conducted that retreat for us. Since the last time I met him in 2003, his health had deteriorated. Yet, he continued to speak with conviction. Behind his words, I could see his deep love for God and His Word. I remembered seeing him always with his rosary in his hands as he walked around the compound. At the end of that retreat, I renewed my vows. Fr. Jaime was again the one celebrating the mass. During the mass, I gave a sharing about the readings, my journey, etc. After the mass, Fr. Jaime came to me, smiled tenderly and said, "Muy bien!" ("Very good") It was just two words that he told me but I would always remember them. I took the opportunity and asked him to autograph my copy of the Verbum Dei statues. Till today, I still have that signed copy of the Verbum Dei statues. For me, that book is priceless.

Fr. Jaime has left the Verbum Dei Missionary Fraternity with a beautiful charism of prayer, preaching and witnessing of life. He dedicated his whole life to be at the service of the Word from the start to the end. Now, it is my turn...it is our time to run the race.

Jaime, you have run the race and reached the finish line. Help us, with your prayers, to run faithfully to the end.



Mothers' Day Celebration

8th May



Giving thanks for
the gift of mothers



20 years Anniversary Pilgrimage to Spain

2nd June ~ 15th June

Sr. Maria Jose, Leticia, Monika & Sandra led a group made up of some Verbum Dei Disciples, parents of Verbum Dei missionaries as well as friends of the community to Spain. The purpose was to retrace the story of Fr. Jaime Bonet, the Founder of Verbum Dei as well as the story Verbum Dei Singapore.

Fr. Michael, a Singaporean Verbum Dei missionary, based in Rome, came along for this trip.



At Singapore's Changi airport

First stop: Mallorca



Mallorca



Homemade food by Mallorca Verbum Dei Family and Missionaries to welcome the Singaporeans



During Pentecost Mass: Gifts of the Holy Spirit prepared by Mallorca Verbum Dei family

The Caves of Drach



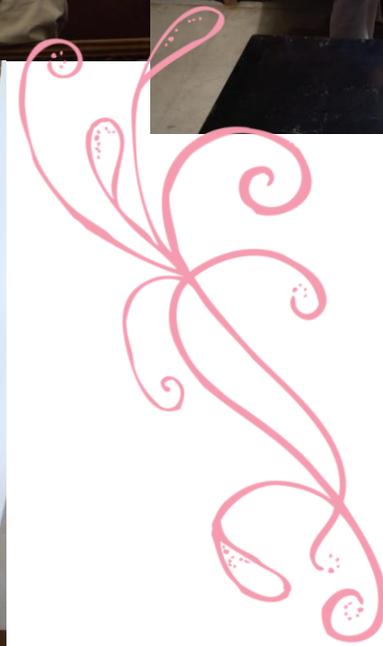
Missionaries' parents: (From left) Evelyn (Priscilla's mother), Merry and Berry (Monika's parents), James and Doris (Sandra's parents)



At San Jose's parish.
With Fr. Jaime's sister-
in-law, nieces and
nephew



La Sapiencia, the
Seminary where Fr. Jaime
did his studies.





Sanctuary of St. Lucia, where the first Verbum Dei formation course (novitiate) took place and the Verbum Dei Fraternity was born in 1963.

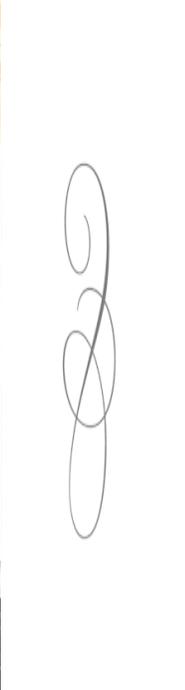
Barcelona



Visited Yolanda de la Fuente who was with Maria Jose at the start of the community in Singapore



Day trip to Montserrat Monastery



Valencia





Visit to a flat where Maria Jose did her formation course (novitiate)



1 day retreat at Verbum Dei Siete Aguas retreat house in Valencia





Siete Aguas Retreat House
After the retreat, Monika renewed
her vows during mass

love



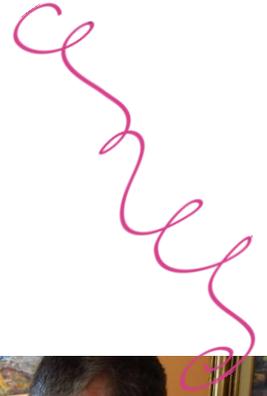
love



Madrid

A visit to Loeches retreat house & Verbum Dei Theological Institute, San Pablo

Day trip to Avila with Sr. Maribel Martin, Verbum Dei Missionary based in Madrid



Bilbao



Welcome mass to Bilbao with Verbum Dei Bilbao missionaries, disciples as well as the family of Maria Jose



A view of Bilbao city and an evening walk

The flat where Maria Jose met the Verbum Dei community

A day visit to Loyola



A visit to Victoria and Angel's house (Maria Jose's sister and brother-in-law) She prepared hot chocolate and yummy pincho (tapas) for tea.





Group photo with Antonio the reliable driver. Outside the Basilica of our Lady of Begoña



Saying farewell...





Siete Aguas Retreat Centre,
Valencia

Encounter for Missionaries

*“Get up and eat or the
journey will be too long”*

Sandra went to this 1 month encounter for just 5 days (16th to 20th June) due to work commitments. It was an enriching time of sharing with missionaries of her generation.



Rest in peace, Fr. Jaime Bonet
Founder of Verbum Dei Missionary Fraternity
21st May 1926~ 25th June 2017



Message from Archbishop William Goh:

“I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your beloved Founder, the late Fr Jaime Bonet. He has certainly lived a life true to his calling, and left us a wonderful legacy in the form of your community. Through his love for the Word, he has inspired so many men and women to dedicate their lives to the spread of the Good News.

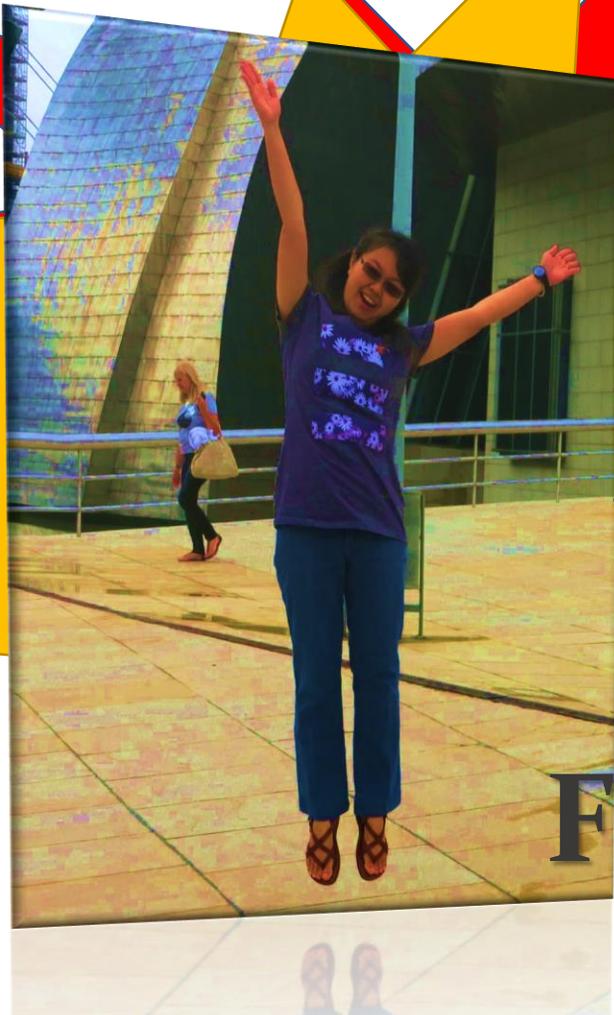
We thank God for the gift of Fr Bonet, even as we mourn his loss. At least for now, we hope he is in heaven already praying for you all since he gave himself so fully to the spread of God’s word. Perhaps, one day by God’s grace, he could be canonized.

Be assured of my prayers for your community during this time of grieving.”

Archbishop William Goh
ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF SINGAPORE

Message from the Chancellor:

“Our condolences on the passing of a great man. Praise God for the life and ministry of Fr Jaime Bonet! We entrust his soul to Almighty God that He may receive him who contemplated his Word and now is able to encounter Him face to face. With prayerful union.



WE ARE DEBT FREEEEEEEE !!!

On 30th May, we finished paying our loan of \$3.5 million for our mission house and chapel. We are very grateful to all our benefactors who have generously helped us with donations as well as prayers. We are also very thankful to our Verbum Dei disciples and friends who helped us through these 4 years of fundraising. Thank you to all for believing in us!

We thank God for making this seemingly impossible task to be a possible reality! Our community truly believes that faith makes things possible, not easy.

As we celebrate our 20th Anniversary of Verbum Dei Singapore, we rejoice and give thanks to God for all the great things that He has done in us and through us.

Please continue to support us as we start our maintenance funds for our house/chapel and mission work. Your generous donations will help us as we give our lives to be at the service of the Word.