

---

# FROM THE CHAPLAINCY

---



## Dear Woodrose Parents

In 2021, we will celebrate the 500 year anniversary of the Evangelization of our country. To prepare for this important event in our history, the Catholic Bishops Conference has lined up a ten-year program that will bring about a greater awareness and appreciation of the gift of Faith that we as a people have received.

For the year 2018, we are asked to reflect and pray for the clergy and consecrated persons so that they continue journeying with us as we strive to live out our Faith. In our diocese, there are many parishes entrusted to the religious orders and congregations. Among others, we have the Somascans in the Parish of St. Jerome, the Vincentians in Miraculous Medal Parish in Posadas, The Oblates of St. Joseph in L'Annunziata in Victoria Homes, The Servites of Mary in St. Peregrine Parish, the Salesians in Mary Help of Christians and Tuloy sa Don Bosco, the Benedictines in San Beda in Alabang Hills though it is not a parish. Among women religious, we have the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate in Alabang Hills who help us in our outreach activities.

Let us pray for our bishops, our parish priests, the priests of Opus Dei who form part of our school's chaplaincy, and the consecrated men and women involved in so many varied ways in spreading the Faith to the Filipino people.

Let us pray for them to be faithful, happy, and holy in the ministry. As Jesus asked us to *pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into his harvest* (Matthew 9:37), let us pray for more vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. May we all live this year very much united so that together, we all help in the task of the new evangelization.



There is an article written by Fr. Emmanuel Mijares posted in the CBCP website entitled *Understanding the Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons*. Below is a 6-point summary of that article.

1. The priority of this year 2018 in preparing for the five hundred years of evangelization in the Philippines is given to the clergy and the consecrated persons. The whole Church is called upon to be an evangelized and evangelizing community with new means, vigor, and enthusiasm together with the priests, religious, consecrated persons, and the laity.

**“...when the clergy or its religious leaders are holy, the people becomes holy.”**

2. The growth or decline of any society depends to a great degree to its religious leaders. There is a direct relationship between the development of society with their clergy and hierarchy. When the clergy is corrupt the society becomes corrupt; but when the clergy or its religious leaders are holy, the people becomes holy.

3. How could the clergy and the religious succeed in leading the flock? By becoming holy themselves! All of us priests, religious, consecrated persons, and laity alike share in the same vocation: there is for all a “universal call to holiness”! The whole Church is called to be “saints together”. The Dogmatic Constitution of the Church (*Lumen Gentium* 43-47), gives us a vision of what the Church is: A People of God composed of the baptized and the consecrated persons and the pastors, the ministers and all are called to holiness.

4. How could we become holy? By washing each other's feet. The clergy and the laity, as disciples of Christ, are called to serve and even forgive one another. The action of Christ in

washing the feet of his apostles indicates to us the way. It is through the humble service of the religious leaders done out of love towards one another and towards their flock that they could become holy together with their flock. In this new evangelization, all are called to be recipients and active agents of evangelization.

5. The year of the clergy and the religious is an invitation for deeper discipleship and communion towards a common journey towards holiness, for neither the clergy, the religious, nor the laity (even as consecrated persons) could do it alone. In fact, to love, to serve, and to forgive, we need each other not only as objects but also as subjects of this love, service, and forgiveness.
6. Together we could rejuvenate the Church as it strives for fruitfulness this year and look forward to the next year when it will focus on the youth, its next pastoral priority, considered not only as the present but also the future of the Church in the Philippines.

