

Cabrini Companion



Words to live by...

The official newsletter of the **Circles of Discernment**

Volume 11 Issue #5

Does self-knowledge cause any harm to a person?

Answer: No.

Self-knowledge does not harm a person, only lack of self acceptance.

• from the notes of

Fr. Mick Mohally-

Inside this issue:

Sr. Patricia Leaves for Rome 1

Values Formation at SOSCFI 2

COD Annual Assembly. 3

COD Schedule 4

Sr. Patricia leaves the Philippines for Rome

On July 20th in Codogno, Italy (where Mother Cabrini founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart 128 years ago), the General Chapter delegates from around the world elected Sr. Patricia Spillane, MSC, to be their leader for the next six years, 2008 -2014.

Sr. Patricia is a native New Yorker and the only child of Irish immigrants, Patrick and Margaret Spillane. She entered the Missionary Sisters 50 years ago on August 17, 1958. She graduated from Cabrini College with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, and later received a Master's in Pastoral Counseling from Iona College, NY and a Licentiate from the Institute of Psychology of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Sr. Patricia was active in education for many years, teaching elementary school and high school, as



Sr. Patricia Spillane, MSC together with Fr. Mick Mohally at the recent COD gathering on August 2008.

well as being Dean of Students of Cabrini College and principal of Mother Cabrini High School of which she is an alumna. From 1975 on, she has worked in religious formation as novice director, as well as doing on-going formation, intercommunity forma-

tion, evaluation of candidates for religious life, writing and giving lectures. Most recently she has been involved in religious and lay formation in Baguio City, Philippines, as well as Save Our Street Children Foundation, Inc, (SOSCFI).

Sr. Patricia comes to her new role as Superior General with a wealth of international experience. From 1990 to 2002 she served as a member of the General Council in Rome and visited our missions around the world. She is fluent in Italian and understands Spanish and Portuguese. Sr. Patricia was missioned to the Philippines in 2003. She accepts the great challenge of this new leadership position with all that it entails and is passionate about our New Missionary Vision which reads in part:

(see below)

Sr. Patricia continued...

The cry of the poor and excluded, the suffering of abandoned children and neglected elders, the disintegration of families and the disorientation of young people, the difficulties of immigrants or refugees, the trafficking of men and women—all these tragedies in today's world challenge and provoke the entire Cabrinian Family.

We MSCs and Cabrinian laity are called together to develop new and creative forms of charity, in order to respond "ardently and swiftly" to the cries of humanity in today's world. We are called to go to new spaces of missionary insertion where life is most threatened...

We of the Cabrinian Family,

accept the challenge of multi-culturalism and international communion with missionary daring and the strength of the Cabrinian Charism. We want to witness to the Love and Compassion of the Heart of Jesus. We commit ourselves to a common Strategic Plan for the Institute that will bring together missionaries, missions and institutions in

Sr. Patricia.. Continued

concrete actions and on-going discernment of human and economic resources, in order to be a prophetic sign of hope for the Realm of God.

Sr. Patricia is the seventh successor to Mother Cabrini who founded the Missionary Sisters of Sacred Heart in 1880. Her deep faith, her energy, her capacity for relationship and her abiding love of the charism are qualities that will serve her well as she leads the Institute in responding to the Lord's Will.

Postscript:

Sr. Patricia started out in the Philippines almost five years ago. It is through her that we credit the birth of the Circles of Discernment which started with a few members to what is it now.

We are thankful that God has sent Sr. Patricia to the Cabrini mission in Baguio City.

Values Formation Program set last July 12th at SOSCFI

COD members Edna Canave and Deborah Moena conducted an all-day workshop for the children of Save Our Street Children Foundation, Inc (SOSCFI) on July 12 at their compound in Camdas. The theme was "Values Formation and Team Building through Art."

The workshop focused in the inner ability of the child in dealing and coping with life's daily obstacles at home, at school and anywhere else. The children as well as the volunteers were all

excited as they performed well and with confidence. Because they could express themselves through art, they shared their feelings and problems, resulting in positive outcomes and good feedbacks.

Caring adults and parents must always strive to make an effort to help children develop self-confidence and optimism.



Values education continued..

Deborah Moena has worked for SOSCFI and has fond memories of it. She worked as a paralegal for the juvenile delinquents as well. She is now currently reviewing for the bar exams this September.

Our prayer and wishes are with her.



Responding to God who desires our friendship: the COD annual Assembly.

On August 17th 2008, the Circles of Discernment gathered once again for what is touted as the 2nd COD assembly. This was the way to open the 5th season of the COD school of Spirituality formation program which focused on relationship with God, oneself and others.

Reminiscent of last year's convention by father Ramon Baustista, SJ, the presenter for this year was Father Mick Mohally, MSSC, an energetic and inspiring priest. He has been in the Philippines for the last 41 years and has an affinity with the Filipino people. Fr. Mick can even speak Filipino with an Irish accent!

The convention was held in the picturesque Little Flower Convent along Paterno street. The convention attracted a mix of youth, lay parishioners, young professionals as well as religious.

The theme for this year's assembly was aptly entitled "Responding to God who desires our friendship."

In one of Fr. Mick Mohally's presentations, he

mentioned that the greatest book that we would aspire to read would be our own hearts.

COD Annual Assembly

Father Mohally explained in this retreat that it is truly God within who calls us out to a friendship with Him. For the desire for God is written in the human heart because we are created by God and God never ceases to draw us to Himself.

In the past, God communicated through mankind through the prophets, but as Jesus came, the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus the Incarnate Word brought a little bit of God's world within our world.



Father Mohally further explained that God's desire for friendship with us, is revealed in the daily events of our lives, through nature, and history, through the people He has given us. In this regard, it is true that God is communicating with us all the time. All we have to do is to notice it.

He also explained the incorrect and the correct ways of expressing the Christian life going beyond rules to self-transcendence.

The assembly also gave opportunity for the members to share in small groups. This has brought tremendous insight from the members who were clearly inspired by the words of Father Mick. The assembly ended with a very meaningful Mass held at the Chapel of the Little Flower.



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Circles of Discernment

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**www.mothercabrini
.org**

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR CIRCLES OF DISCERNMENT, YEAR 5:

Sun, September 7, 2008 @ 1pm Casa
Cabrini: *Relationship with myself, part 1*,
Sr. Patricia.

Sun, September 21—*Path of Life retreat*
by Fr. Jobo. ICM House of Prayer. 9-4.

Sun, October 5th, 2008. Panel
"Experiences in Relationship" @ 1 pm,
Casa Cabrini.

Novena to Mother Cabrini, Wed Nov6 to
Fri-Nov 14, 6 pm nightly, Casa Cabrini.

Sun, November 9th, 2008. *Relationship
with myself, part II*. Sr. Nnette, RVM.
1pm, Casa Cabrini.

Sat, Nov. 14: Mass and celebration for
Mother Cabrini's Feast—COD & SOSCFI
combined, Sangkabalayan Hall
(Cathedral), 10 am

Sun, December 7th 2008. *Relationship*

with myself, Pt III. Karen Villaluz. 1pm
Casa Cabrini.

Sun, January 11th 2009, 11 am. Epiph-
any party with COD mtg. after lunch:
Relationship with Others, part I. Re-
becca C. Costales.

Sun, February 2, 2008. *Relationship with
Others part II*. Rebecca Costales. 1pm
Casa Cabrini.

March 1, 2009. All Day retreat. At ICM
House of Prayer., 9-5. Father Percy
Bacanin, MJ. *Love and Just relations*.

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