

Balitang Nagbibigay Buhay

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Archdiocese of Vancouver



SALAMAT 3: TREASURING THE GIFT

A rich and inspiring testimonials by individuals, a couple, and groups

by: Marie Pacheco

Have you ever experienced a spiritual itch?

This was the question that stayed after watching the Filipino Ministry of the Archdiocese of Vancouver's virtual event, "Salamat 3- Treasuring the Gift". As part of the year-long celebration of 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines, Salamat 3 focused on different ways our Filipino community has used God's gifts in sharing His word and building faith-based communities across

across this side of Canada. But it all starts with an openness in listening and answering God's call to each and every one of us.

Dan Ramos is a seminarian with the Companions of the Cross. He shared his story of how God changed the original plans he had set as a young adult, through a curiosity about the priesthood that started during a World Youth Day (WYD) experience in 2011. He spoke about being

inspired in seeing young priests having fun with their pilgrim group and asking himself what they had that he did not have during that time. Ramos said that while he went back to his regular life after WYD, a spiritual itch began to grow in him.

"It eventually became unbearable, undeniable, where I know I had to give this a chance. I gave God a chance."

This led Ramos to attend retreats and seek priests to talk about their vocation story. He joined the seminary in 2014 and is now two years away from being ordained. He shared that while his journey is not without difficulties, there is a deepening sense of joy and peace that he has never experienced before. And while priesthood is not the only vocation one can be called for, he shares that nothing else in the world is worth doing more than the will of God.

"This deep peace and joy is only found in a life doing God's will," says Ramos.

There are three types of vocation and each one of us is called to share God's gifts in the vocation we have been called to serve: whether it's in priesthood/consecrated life, single or married life. Salamat #3 also focused on seven active lay organizations that have been examples of how Filipinos have treasured the gifts they've been given in building the faith here in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

The Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen & Professionals, Bukas Loob Sa Diyos, Couples for Christ, El Shaddai, Families for Christ, Light of Jesus and the Missionary Families for Christ are all examples of how church-based groups from the Philippines have brought and shared their faith and charisms to evangelize and strengthen parishes and communities in everywhere. Some focus on evangelizing through breakfast meetings in the marketplace, others through sessions like the Life In the Spirit Seminar, some through the witness of faithful couples that renew the importance of marriage and family in this age, others hold Feasts for those who feel troubled and distant from the church, or some make use of formation in families to defend faith. Wherever you may be in your faith journey, there are so many ways to listen and respond to God's call for us to treasure our gifts.

Indeed, there are many ways to feed our spiritual itch.

As St. Catherine of Sienna said, "Be who you are meant to be, and you will set the world on fire."

The next Salamat event will be on December 10.



NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Filipino Catholic Ministry
Archdiocese of Vancouver

Join us every 7 am for the daily novena via the **FILIPINO CATHOLIC MINISTRY** facebook page

October 7-15, 2021

Link to the Novena Prayer

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary
October 7-15, Get Novena Booklet:
tinyurl.com/2xe547bh

Join in-person

Matthew 7.7 Prayer Brigade

Eucharistic Adoration, Prayers, and Scriptural Rosary

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH
4451 Williams Rd, Richmond, BC
Sunday, October 24, 2021
3:00 - 6:00 pm

*Ask and it shall be given.
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and it shall be opened.*
Matthew 7:7

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