



WHITE & BLUE

THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER OF THE STUDENT CATHOLIC ACTION OF THE PHILIPPINES



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GREETINGS OF PEACE AND LOVE!

We gladly welcome the students and teachers for yet another opening of the academic year! We raise high hopes for all as we embrace another challenging period ahead of us. The Year of the Youth (YOTY) comes in at the middle and the energy didn't end during the National Youth Day in the Archdiocese of Cebu. We are rather moved to reflect more, to pray more and to do more! Leaving the Season of Easter, the Holy Spirit becomes the "bida" of our lives. The Pentecost Sunday reminded us to be courageous in the sign of the times.

This White and Blue issue covers the movement's movements in the early quarter until the Eastertide. It revolves around the stories of our community which include how the Church manifests the youth as beloved, gifted, and empowered. Behind the YOTY's slogan, SCA leaders arise with more questions especially on the talks of Climate Crisis and how the youth can become active social changemakers. These endless wonder leads to resolve in asking oneself how the Spirit lives in one's personal work and lifestyle. One may ask, "Am I empowered by the Spirit in all these things?"

The Holy Father affirms what these questions from the young people implicate and it stays in a form of the youth's desire to be guided and recognized because "social commitment is a specific feature" for them. There are those "who are ready to commit themselves to initiatives of volunteer work, active citizenship and social solidarity" and they just "need to be accompanied and encouraged to use their talents and skills creatively, and to be encouraged to take up their responsibilities (170, Christus Vivit)."

Climate Crisis is a communal challenge and we believe that the young people can have their share. It is timely that the *Laudato Si Gen*, the youth arm of the Global Catholic Climate Movement, will be launched this month for the Laudato Si's 4th year anniversary this week. It is alongside with the 200K Bamboohay Project which SCA aims to sustain over a year, a big response against the dangers the world expect if we go beyond the "turning point" of ecological imbalance.

We're working on a big project but it will be nothing without one volunteering heart. And, may that heart be full of compassion and to be given "the ability to manifest the Spirit for the common good." (1 Cor 12:7)

FROM THE NATIONAL DESK

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#SCAPYOTY

COORDINATOR'S THOUGHTS

by Frence M. Boiser

"IT HURTS!" I exclaimed. I felt pain in my knees.

Our trip to Batad, Ifugao Province last year was terrific, but I was about to give up when I went downhill from the highest viewing deck almost two hours away from the famous rice terraces. I figured out my youth was no longer at its peak or maybe, I haven't prepared that much for the uphill trek. Urgh! But it wasn't the real deal. The physical challenge opened my eyes to a more significant threat the world faces. While my sensations in Ifugao was wrapped with jaw-dropping vistas of green, natural landscapes, and clear breeze, I left with a worried heart. Will others be able to see and encounter the same image and freshness in the future? Can the young people sustain these resources amidst the possible danger of the global climate crisis? A movie scene reminded me of *Thanos* occupying a domain at the rice terraces. What if all disappear?

**NOT TOO YOUNG,
NOR TOO OLD
to winning over
CLIMATE CRISIS**



A Movement for Resilience and Sustainability

SCAP, as early as 2008, has been already in serious talks about climate change. The 9th National Leadership Conference in the Diocese of San Jose de Antique affirmed that student-participants were never too young to discuss and to involve themselves in the challenges of environmental issues. In fact, the conference hauled the students' creative skills, eventually conducting the first SCA Songwriting Competition and then voila! We released the first all-original CD song album, *Simply SCA*, for *Inang Kalikasan* composed and interpreted by nonetheless SCAns from various parts of the country. It was a campaign feat at least for SCA in the national level, raising eco-spiritual consciousness through arts among the members.

A few years later, the destruction brought by super

typhoon Yolanda in 2013 moved SCA leaders to talk critically once again about the gruesome effects of climate change in the 11th National Leadership Conference in Cebu City. Yeb Sano, the former UN Climate Commissioner, was present. He inspired us. Then, we launched the *SCA Earthkeepers Project*- an SCA household name attached to its current eco-spiritual campaign. It was providential that a year later the Holy Father released the encyclical *Laudato Si'* from which we celebrate its 4th anniversary.

Never Enough

Two big conferences passed. It wasn't enough. The national movement's journey in encouraging a change of perspectives about earth care and lifestyle seems like still clawed in a downtrodden path. (*Continue to next page*)

COORDINATOR'S THOUGHTS

(Cont.)

There is already a huge information dump, but significant practices are low. Members of the Student Catholic Action struggle in this light and personally, I am too. Arduous tasks need to be carried over. We knew it wasn't, and shouldn't only be us. SCAP required to be open and collaborative to like-minded organizations and individuals. In 2016, the organization welcomed a long-time partnership with the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) which eventually networked us to more similar kind of groups and institutions.

We are blessed that the Columban Fathers never left us. Through GCCM, our founding fathers supported us in the Earthkeepers program. We successfully gathered more than 200 SCAns and non-SCAns for the 1st SCA Earthkeepers Summit in Bohol last 2016. The summit created firm resolutions for students to be responsible stewards of creation. It was fully documented and signed by more than 30 schools all over the Philippines. It continues to challenge us in living out the words.

During the 90th anniversary of the Columban Fathers in the Philippines, Fr. John Leydon, SSC, co-founder and convener of GCCM, recognized and highlighted SCA's continuing spirit to accompany the youth in this mission. SCA is not done yet. Pope Francis' *Christus Vivit* speaks to the Church to listen to the youth and to believe in their capacity to change. The youth need to bring out the best of them. The Holy Father quotes:

"I want to state clearly that young people themselves are agents of youth ministry. Certainly they need to be helped and guided, but at the same time left free to develop new approaches, with creativity and a certain audacity." (203, *Christus Vivit*)

Young and Old, Agents of Change

It is not already about climate change. It is already about the climate crisis. In the past, experts did much in providing information proving the wrath of nature caused by human-induced destruction. Experts fear that "in less than fifteen years, our resources will be irreversibly gone."



"I want to state clearly that young people themselves are agents of youth ministry. Certainly they need to be helped and guided, but at the same time left free to develop new approaches, with creativity and a certain audacity."

(203, *Christus Vivit*)

Now is the time to act. I support more than ever efforts on climate justice. Such consciousness even pulled up individuals as young as Greta Thurnberg. At 16, she goes out of the streets of Sweden calling her fellow youth for a peaceful rally. They are demanding the government to end fossil use. Now, she influences the world to speak out through children's peaceful protests.

Marinel Ubaldo, a Filipino youth representative at COP 21 in Paris, who experienced typhoon Yolanda, planted courage in her speech, especially for young Filipinos. She said, "I never imagined traveling the world to tell my story. Sharing has been the key to healing for me. Never underestimate your power to change the world. You can do more than you think. Let us join, hand in hand, in making the world a better place."

I believe SCA has its own contributions too. To mention a few, USJR-SCA in Cebu ties up with KAUSABAN for a theater play production to creatively depict the need for climate justice aside from supporting the university's Win-on-Waste Program. SCA in Bacolod, Tagbilaran, and Gumaca (Lopez Chapter) never cease to conduct mangrove tree reforestation projects in coastal areas. (*Continue to next page.*)

COORDINATOR'S THOUGHTS



PHOTO: USJ-R SCAns doing the acting practice for *Kausaban* (which means Change) Theater Play Production

(Cont.)

And recently, young SCA Alumnus, Elmeer Meynard Calimpos, has been chosen as the only young Filipino representative among 62 Global Changemakers. He is recognized because of his efforts in gathering and educating children to become environmental advocates in Bacolod City.

Last March, my team in the national secretariat started meeting Fr. Ben Beltran, SVD. He is at his 80's, but we never imagined how energized and elated he is in doing pastoral and social works especially on technology and biodiversity. He offered the 200K Bamboo Project for SCAP. What I am surprised and appreciative of is his strong faith in the youth, through SCA. "What can the Year of the Youth offer in facing the Climate Crisis?" he asked us. True enough, fast forward from our talk, we planned to plant 200,000 endemic bamboos to save the watersheds in Metro Manila, promote disaster-resiliency and create sustainable jobs for the urban poor. A big project, indeed! Yet, an activity to be done in haste. Collective action is envisioned.

This year is my 10th year in the national secretariat. That was so fast! I will be stepping down soon, but it will not stop me from living out SCA's motto, "to restore all things in Christ!" I pray that I can keep a young mind and soul always open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. I wish I can also have the same zest as with Fr. Ben's solid years. I may not be too young anymore, but definitely, I am not too old to influence change and to accompany friends in the ministry. The faith I keep from the Creator is the same faith I bear in the Church. Can you imagine if more than 1 billion Catholics act now to reverse the ill-effects done against nature?

This Laudato Si' Anniversary reminds me back to Ifugao Province, where I personally encountered and talked with an old indigenous woman. I recognized how she loved her roots yet allowing modernity flow over their local culture. What stands out was her story of a simple life and how she was happy and all satisfied in raising her children. She never desired to go down to the city because LIFE is already offered there in the mountains.

In this world, where we might be dreaming of something else – a definition of what a perfect society is for us, we need to wake up. An eco-spiritual conversion should happen. A lifestyle check is good. Aside from collective efforts to demand environmental policies, personal change is the key to save us from the climate crisis. Did you avoid a single-use plastic today?

PHOTO: The author while talking to an old Ifugao woman in Banawe.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR | FRENCE BOISER is the National Coordinator for Mindanao. He is also the SCAP NS Admin and Communications Manager. He hails from Bohol and received his full-fledged membership in SCA in the Diocese of Tagbilaran.



ACROSS
SCA CLUSTERS

CENTRAL LUZON

SUSTAINING the SCA MISSION: Tarlac, Cabanatuan

By Edison P. Cruz

Months had passed after the conclusion of the *5th Luzon Regional Leadership Conference* which was held at the College of the Immaculate Conception in the Diocese of Cabanatuan last October, Central Luzon Cluster continues to strive to restoring all things in Christ through its programs and activities.

The Central Luzon Cluster which includes SCA Tarlac and SCA Cabanatuan participated in the recently concluded National Youth Day 2019 in Cebu from April 23-28 with the theme: “*I am the servant of the Lord, may it be done to me according to your word.*” Both dioceses were fostered at the City of Naga, Cebu.

SCA Cabanatuan sent a total of 19 delegates from Junior and Senior High School, College, and Animators of the College of the Immaculate Conception.

In an online reflection, Maria Erika Galapon, NYD Senior High School delegate from CIC said, “*Lahat ng taong nakita, nakasalamuha at nakilala ko noong NYD ay ramdam na ramdam ko ang pagkilos ng Diyos sa kanilang buhay. Naramdaman ko rin kung paano nila naipapahiwatig sa akin ang bukas at di-mapaghusgang pagmamahal ng Diyos.*”

SCA Tarlac, specifically the Tarlac State University, sent a total number of 17 delegates for the NYD. The delegates were composed of high school and college students and animators from the said university. (*Continue to next page*)

PHOTO: SCA Cabanatuan delegates with SCAP National Chaplain and ECY Chair, Bp. Leopoldo C. Jaucian, SVD, DD during NYD 2019 in Cebu.



ACROSS SCA CLUSTERS



CENTRAL LUZON

(Cont.)

SCA Tarlac's Feat

The Diocese of Tarlac continues its major formation programs for the last three years, which include the Basic Orientation Workshop and Youth Encounter. Those programs also include Taize Prayer Workshop facilitated by the SCA National Formation Team.

Tarlac State University (TSU) College Unit firms up its SCA Applicant's Orientation, eSCApade, Preparatory Cell Meetings, Lantern-Making Festival, Taize Prayer, Tribute to Graduates, and their very own *SCA-in-Touch*, a program for the alumni. TSU reaches out its SCA Apostolate at St. Paul Colleges.

Last Lenten Season, the Tarlac State University also conducted the *Campus Stations of the Cross* as a preparation for the Holy Week. It aimed to offer the TSU community the opportunity to stop for a moment and have more in-depth communication with God. And, because of the encouraging activities it brought to the campus, the SCA College Unit of Tarlac State University received the *Outstanding Campus Religious Organization* for the school year 2018-2019. Congratulations and God bless, TSU-SCA Unit!

Parochial Connections and Growth in SCA Cabanatuan

SCA Cabanatuan grounds itself to connecting with parochial activities. It is part of the reorganization of the Diocesan Youth Commission with an aim to get-to-know parish youth leaders and to work with them closely. SCA leaders then participated youth training program and youth leaders meeting. SCAns accompanied also the Parish Youth Ministry with theatrical plays during the Holy Week observance.

Last March, the CIC-SCA had its Basic Orientation Workshop with participants from Junior High School to College. The SCA leaders of CIC also facilitated the Basic Orientation Workshop of the St. Francis of Assisi Diocesan School and St. Stephen Academy, newly organized SCA units in the diocese. Junior High School leaders from both schools attended the formation.

Aside from the formation programs of SCA Philippines, the SCAns of the College of the Immaculate Conception, in cooperation and coordination with the Christian Formation Program Office of the school, also had other events and activities like monthly mass, Prayer in the Way of Taize, a tribute to graduates and outreach activities.

As of writing this article, SCA Tarlac and SCA Cabanatuan are planning for the Central Luzon - Students, Chaplains, and Animators Formation Exchange (SCAFE) as part of the resolution of the 5th Luzon Regional Leadership Conference of establishing a formation team in the region.



ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTOR:

Edison Cruz is an active college leader of the College of the Immaculate Conception Student Catholic Action in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. He is pursuing a course on Secondary Education.



THOUGHTS FROM THE SCA COORDINATOR

" Is SCA NCR worth fighting for? "

By Kim Karlo A. Pablo



It was a task that I really did not want. A work that I could not imagine that I would handle, and I want to back out from. But how did I turn from a reluctant animator to a willing coordinator?

It all started when I was appointed as the cluster coordinator for NCR on the 16th day of January 2018. Mr. Jojie Juanerio of San Jose Academy, the former cluster coordinator, told me that I would succeed him given that we were the only animators present in that meeting. Shock and confusion dawned upon me as to how I would be able to perform the position given that I only had eight months of experience as the SCA Animator in Claret School of Quezon City. I also wanted to vacate the position since it was an exhausting task.

Luckily, Mr. Marlon Salvador, my senior animator, and Mr. Paolo Josef Blando, the former Animator and High School Principal in CSQC were very supportive. Though I feel there is still much I have to do as an animator and coordinator, I got the courage of accepting the task. I have supportive and cooperative student leaders, like Jan Ver Dominic Edra, the current NCC Chair and NCR College Representative from DLSU-SCA, and Mark Villeza, former NCR High School Representative from CSQC-SCA who is now studying in UST. These people influenced and guided me in dreaming and visualizing of how the SCA-NCR Cluster ought to become.

We visited all possible units wherein we pursue a culture of dialogue, the visitations were anchored on the principle that the unit and the representatives should be able to understand each other's situations to forge better partnerships and to foster unity in the cluster. But of course, these were ideals, reality bites as they say. We were faced by different challenges and issues arising in the NCR Cluster. Some units were unresponsive to the call of meetings. Several of them pursued activities on their own. Animators and student leaders alike had different ideas on how to run their units overlooking to the ideals set by the movement. (*Continue to next page*)

ACROSS SCA CLUSTERS



NCR

(Cont. *Thoughts from the SCA...*)

And some units, as much as we invited them, did not even respond once to the call. These are the moments that breaks me as a coordinator. Yes, I would admit that I am disappointed whenever there is a low turnout of attendees in meetings, being ignored in chats, sending yes to invitations but backing out at the last minute. It is an exhausting and thankless job. It will lead you to specific questions “Is being a coordinator still worthwhile?” “What do I get when I do this thing for the movement?” and “Is the NCR Cluster worth fighting for?”

“... the concrete response of SCA is to restore creation as it was given to us by God... The care for the environment is a challenge given to all of us given that part of our identity as SCAns are to become Earthkeepers.”

However, I reflect on these questions, I look back at the spirit inspired by the Columban Missionaries. It is timely because they celebrated their 90th anniversary of mission in the Philippines this year. The very foundation of the movement was formed by a community who desired to restore all things in Christ. The Columban fathers gave us a gift, the gift of community that we should be grateful for.

One of the missions forged by the Columbans is the care for the environment which is still being promoted and practiced by the movement. And in this Year of the Youth, the concrete response of SCA is to restore creation as it was given to us by God. The movement intends to plant 200,000 bamboos this year to combat the effects of climate change through an open project called, Bamboohay. The care for the environment is a challenge given to all of us given that part of our identity as SCAns are to become Earthkeepers.

My prayers and sincerest hope and desire that units in the NCR Cluster would be the leading force to respond to the challenge of being earthkeepers through this project. So is the NCR Cluster worth fighting for? There may be challenges and there is a long way to go but I believe that it is worth fighting for.

PHOTO: Kim (infront) together with the student leaders of SCA NCR from various units in one of their cluster meetings.





SCA Bacolod firms up LOC for NLC2020

By Beah Marie Ganarias

BACOLOD CITY - The Student Catholic Action of the Philippines Diocese of Bacolod conducted the Local Organizing Committee Formation and Planning together with the National Secretariat namely, Frence Boiser and John Floyd Abrico, and the Visayas Cluster Coordinator Melvin Pedrosa last May 11 – 12, 2019 at the Campus Ministry Multipurpose Hall, University of Negros Occidental – Recoletos.

The said formation was participated by the students, animators, and alumni from different units having 20 participants all in all. Inspired by the theme of this year's National Youth Day, "*I am the servant of the Lord may it be done unto me according to Your word,*" the participants reflected on it in responding to God's call to them as to be the host of the forthcoming 13th National Leadership Conference.

This formation served as a head start for the host on its preparation for the conference. Through this, the participants were able to recognize one's strengths that can be a commitment to the gathering and weaknesses that can be enhanced throughout the time of preparation. Moreover, the simple yet enriching activities provided by the National Secretariat to the participants helped them to discover more something about themselves that can be a relevant contribution to the preparation of the conference.



PHOTO: TRULY FROM THE CITY OF SMILES. SCA Bacolod volunteers, together with the SCAP National Secretariat, conclude the NLC2020 LOC Formation and Planning with smiles.

As a student movement, five major committees were formed to be led by respective student leaders with the assistance of the animators and alumni. The group also decided to have a student leader as an over-all in-charge in the preparation of the gathering to work together with the Diocesan Coordinator. With this, the student leaders will be able to expose themselves on how to facilitate or develop a fruitful event. The formation was filled with refining activities and planning that will ready the participants to be the host of the upcoming 13th National Leadership Conference in their very own City of Smiles, Bacolod.



ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTOR:

Beah Marie Ganarias is a college student leader from the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos. She generously committed to chair the Local Organizing Committee for the hosting of SCAP National Leadership Conference for 2020.



NYD2019 Challenge: Beloved, Gifted, and Empowered to Save the Earth

By Edrea Maxeen Juliano and Jhulienne Anne Bucao

CEBU CITY - NYD 2019 was a blast! We could not deny our uplifted spirits because it happened right in our very own archdiocese. More than 12,000 young people from various parts of the Philippines converged to reflect and focus on the theme, "*I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.*"

Both of us remembered in the large crowd of young people introduced respectively per organization and diocese. We were two among the 164 delegates of the Student Catholic Action of the Philippines shouting our battle cry, "To Christ the King!" at Osmena Boulevard and on the massive stage of Abellana Sports Complex in Cebu City.

This year's NYD highlights the Year of Youth's message for us, "*Filipino Youth: Beloved, Gifted, and Empowered.*" Our experiences, especially the host family immersion in the Parish of St. Rose of Lima gave us beautiful learnings and memories of relating to people whom we first met and being welcomed at their homes and communities. Moreover, we thank the youth leaders in the parish for letting us engage in the NYD workshops and exposure. Indeed, we felt beloved and gifted.

However, NYD had its cons. We were saddened because we received styro-packaged meals and single-use water bottles. Imagine getting these things in five days! Just think of the big group that can pile up a huge mess!

(Continue to next page)



ACROSS
SCA CLUSTERS

VISAYAS



PHOTO: REFUSE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS. SCA Delegation during the NYD 2019 replace plastic spoons and forks with their own reusable cutlery. Photo by SCA Gumaca (Lopez Chapter).

We courteously brought it up to the organizers and reminded them about Pope Francis' call from *Laudato Si*. All SCA delegation clusters showed their support to our advocacy by refusing plastic spoons and forks and using water tumblers in the entire event. We were bothered by the number of plastic trash when we refused and returned the plastic cutlery. We, however, hoped that all plastic materials collected and left will go to a material recovery facility. It was hard but we need to make a step forward. Both of us thought that our simple action during the event must have influenced our fellow youth participants; that each one has a responsibility to take care of the environment.

“This year of the youth.. (we) are challenged to influence one another in leading young Filipinos to supporting simple and sustainable ways in protecting the planet... May this year empower us to save the earth not only our hearts and souls. **”**

This year of the youth, the two of us together with our fellow SCAs are challenged to influence one another in leading young Filipinos to supporting simple and sustainable ways in protecting the planet. May this year empower us to save the earth not only our hearts and souls. May God's Word through Mary be active in our thoughts and deeds. We learned to share this advocacy and we must start changing our self first with light steps and then grow from there. Let us all make our share to restore all things in Christ!

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS:

Edrea and Jhulienne are SCA leaders from University of San Jose-Recoletos Basak Campus. Edrea recently stepped in as the SCA College Representative for the National Coordinating Council. Jhulienne comes in as the High School Representative.

SCA BLOOD

The SCAP family congratulates our former SCA national coordinator, Cyril Ryan "Kuya Cy" Lituanas as the new Associate Dean of Student Affairs in De La Salle University. He served as the Coordinator for Community Faith-building Ministry in the Lasallian Pastoral Office prior to his new assignment. Through the years, Kuya Cy sustained his mission working with and animating young people in his circle. A true-blooded SCA member comes up into the ranks of leadership and is very happy to share with us how his personal life transformation has been nurtured with authentic friendships in and outside the movement. Later, these experiences continue to grow in serving and influencing more young people. Let's get to know him from this interview:

WHO IS KUYA CY IN SCA?

I got to know the organization in the late 90s, in my high school years, but I was quite hesitant to join the group. It was only in college when knew good people and friends who invited me to be formally part of Student Catholic Action. It started only with a response to my personal need of belonging to a group. I was welcomed.

From AUTHENTIC FRIENDSHIPS to YOUTH SERVICE

| Featuring SCA Alumnus,
Cyril Ryan "Kuya Cy" Lituañas

| Interview by Frence Boiser

Getting into the movement made me feel so comfortable as I established a good friendship with the members who became one of the most significant persons in my formation years. Authentic friendships can transform us into something life-changing. I thought SCA was all about it, but I was surprised when my Kuyas and Ates entrusted me some crucial tasks that made me more competent, committed, responsible, creative, and Christ-centered. (*Continue to next page*)

SCA BLOOD

>>> Continuation

They ushered me to become one the leaders in the SCA Diocesan Secretariat in Tagbilaran, Bohol. I did not aspire to be leading a team of newbies, but later I was elected as the Secretary-General. I felt I was incompetent to handle the tasks. But that gave me the courage to learn more and desire to be a humble servant. It brought me to the National Coordinating Council representing Visayas Cluster in 2001. When I graduated from university with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, my term as a student leader had ended. However, the Diocesan Commission on Youth offered me an opportunity to be the Diocesan SCA Coordinator in the Diocese of Tagbilaran. Without much question, I considered the offer. I allowed my faith to take care of my passion for serving the youth and students in the province of Bohol. I did not even entertained the proposal of my father to study law, disappointing him to become one of the rosters of lawyers in the clan.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND LEARNINGS IN THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT?

I worked for three years in the National Secretariat. It delivered me with gifts of formation and personal growth plus the perks of traveling and meeting different kinds of people locally and internationally. It was, in my mind and heart, an essential act of service and sacrifice for my fellow Filipino youth. Working for, by, and with the youth at the national level guided me to see a lot of realities. I saw different faces and struggles of the youth. These realities made me resolved to commit to working with the students particularly, even until at present.

HOW DID YOU EMBRACE WORK AFTER SCA?

After my service in SCA, I prayed that I will be honed to serve God and country better through continuous learning and studies.

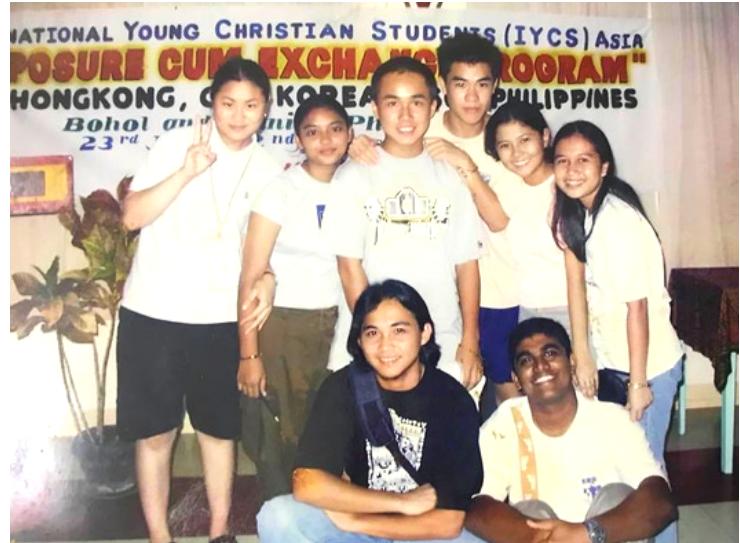


PHOTO: Kuya Cyril (Seated wearing black shirt) during the SCA-YCS Hongkong international Exchange and Exposure Program in the Philippines during his coordinatorship in SCA Tagbilaran.

“ My involvement in SCA is both a grace and gift that paved the way to the many opportunities of serving God and country for young people.”

I felt like I needed to do something more, but I couldn't just do it. Honestly, it was quite hard for me to venture another life outside the youth ministry. It was like plunging in the deep blue sea without knowing how to swim. It was a period of discernment, which led me to discover and learn more about myself, and God's plan for me. But God called me for another mission of working the students and youth in De La Salle University. I am currently the Associate Dean of the Office of Student Affairs. My years in SCA, I believe, prepared me to work in this particular mission. (Continue to next page)

SCA ∞ BLOOD

>>> Continuation

WHAT ARE THE GIFTS, INSPIRATION, AND DISCOVERIES YOU GOT FROM SCA?

My interests and understanding the complexities of society started when I got involved in the Student Catholic Action. These interests became a reflexive phenomenon in my life. I started to realize that to be a good global citizen, I need to be reflexive. I need to penetrate deeply into my daily life, become sensitive and aware of a new historical level. For many years of working in the youth, I have witnessed that activities that are believed to have created an impact to the youth are retained even if these do not respond anymore to the needs of the young at present. The activities, values, and practices sometimes become a tradition of the youth ministry structure. It is a challenge of a leader to contest the current student leaders to reflect on these ritualistic activities that have become a tradition to the present generation.



PHOTO: Kuya Cyril receives recognition from DLSU as one of its pillars. Even with his full-time work in the institution, he continues to serve SCAP by volunteering in the National Formation Team of the movement.

With my engagements at work and professional organizations, all of these contribute to my personal growth. I want to believe that for more than 15 years of doing youth ministry in the Philippines and counting; I have shared something for the youth, the organization and the society. It started with my involvement in the youth ministry that enabled me to understand my past and biography and the community in which I live. I did not claim that I have understood everything in this world, however, as I remain to exist and live, my life continues to imagine sociologically with the eyes of faith. Everything is God's gift. SCA today owes the spirit which the Columban missionaries shared more than 80 years ago. This is their gift to the Filipino youth. I am grateful and honored to be part of this long history of one of the oldest religious youth organisations in the Philippines.

Do you have an SCA Story to tell?

Transform a personal narrative into written notes highlighting an account that truly runs in the SCA BLOO
 D. We may be able to feature your story in one of our issues.
 Email us at mail@scaphilippines.org

SCA BLOOD

SCAn from Bacolod chosen as sole Filipino Global Changemaker



ELMEER MEYNARD D. CALIMPOS, 21, a young alumni of SCA Bacolod from the University of Negros Occidental Recoletos is selected as one of the 62 Global Changemakers who made it among 1,294 youth applicants around the world.

Elmeer is the sole Filipino youth in this year's Global Changemakers. He will leave the country to represent in Zurich, Switzerland on July 12, 2019.

The Global Changemakers is an international and independent organization supporting youth-led projects in 128 countries worldwide. It was created in 2007 by the British Council with the aim of empowering youth to catalyse change.

Elmeer, through his SCA exposure, was able to organize CORE (Children's Optimization for Revitalization of Environment). Its aim is to raise the consciousness of children in providing simple and doable solutions to address plastic pollution and climate crisis.

This former SCA Vice President, now the SCA Alumni PIO, recalls how his passion to work for environmental program sparked in the movement:

"It was 2015 when I joined one of the environmental initiatives of SCA Bacolod. I witnessed how the movement truly cares for the planet and its people. However, the significant turning point of my life was when I participated in the National Earthkeepers Summit in Tagbilaran, Bohol last 2016 that awakened my mind since climate change is a serious issue. We may not have a clear threshold to declare the Philippines in a state of Climate Emergency, but the adverse effects cannot be denied globally. SCA taught me to be critical as I read several reports from the United Nations and many children are suffering from the quality of air, water shortage, hunger, skin diseases, etc. due to industrialization and globalization. SCA, as a multi-sectoral movement taught me to become empathetic to children in the communities. I believe that by empowering the children of our local communities and explain them to connect and nurture with nature, then we will have a better set of leaders in the future. Without SCA, I might not reach this stage of my life, and so I bring it back for His greater glory."

PHOTO: Kuya Cyril receives recognition from DLSU as one of its pillars. Even with his full-time work in the institution, he continues to serve SCAP by volunteering in the National Formation Team of the movement.

NATIONAL UPDATES IN BITS

PROGRAM MILESTONES & REPRESENTATION FROM JAN TO MAY 2019

5th SCAP VMRLC LOC Formation | 26-27 January 2019

Frence Boiser, from the National Secretariat, together with the Visayas Cluster Coordinator, Melvin Pedrosa, facilitated the Local Organizing Committees (LOC) Formation and Planning in preparation for the 5th SCAP Visayas-Mindanao Regional Leadership Conference in Cagayan de Oro City. The event will be hosted by SCA aCDO and SCA Tandag as a collaborative program. Visayas and Mindanao SCA leaders will be invited from October 26 to 29, 2019 in CDO City.



FNYO General Assembly | 17 March 2019

SCAP joined the General Assembly of the Federation of National Youth Organizations at Don Bosco Provincial House in Makati. Frence Boiser and Jonel Bryan Reyes from the National Secretariat, together with Kim Karlo Pablo, SCA NCR Cluster Coordinator, represented the activity. 20 Catholic youth organizations were present in the meeting for updating of profiles and preparation for the National Youth Day and Year of the Youth Festivities.



National Youth Day 2019 | 23-28 April 2019

The Year of the Youth's biggest event, NYD2019, happened in the Archdiocese of Cebu gathering in more than 12,000 youth participants from all over the country. SCAP sent 164 delegates all the way from the arch/dioceses of Tarlac, Cabanatuan, Gumaca (Lopez Council), NCR (including Our Lady of Lourdes Parish-Tagaytay and PCNE), Tagbilaran, Bacolod, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Tandag and the National Secretariat. A Post-NYD event for SCA delegation was also hosted in the University of San Jose-Recoletos Basak Campus. Participants reflected and shared the fruits of their daily NYD experiences.



NATIONAL UPDATES IN BITS

PROGRAM MILESTONES & REPRESENTATION FROM JAN TO MAY 2019

LOC Formation and Meeting for SCAP NLC2020 | 11-12 May 2019

Frenc Boiser and John Floyd Abrico, from the National Secretariat, together with the Visayas Cluster Coordinator, Melvin Pedrosa, teamed up to conduct the Local Organizing Committees (LOC) Formation and Planning in preparation for the 13th SCAP National Leadership Conference in Bacolod City at the Campus Ministry Office of the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos. The participants formed the core members for specific committees. Beah Marie Ganarias, a college leader from UNO-R will chair the LOC. The national conference will be on May 6-10, 2020 in Bacolod City.



Laudato Si Gen Core Team Formation | 17 March 2019

SCAP didn't miss the opportunity to form as one of the lead groups of *Laudato Si Gen*, the youth arm of the Global Catholic Climate Movement which is to be launched this coming June 22, 2019. A network of educational institutions and NGOs represented to plan the event at Salikneta Farm in Bulacan through the sponsorship of De La Salle Philippines.



NATIONAL UPDATES

ADVOCACY ON SOCIAL JUSTICE & ENVIRONMENT

SCAP joins Laudato Si Gen Core Group, Phil chapter to launch June 22

With reports from Jonel Bryan Reyes



PHOTO: Frence Boiser (sitting first from left) and Jonel Bryan Reyes (sitting second from right) from SCAP NS join leaders from various network groups gathered by the Global Catholic Climate Movement-Pilipinas to form the core group of the LAUDATO SI GEN-PILIPINAS at Salikneta Farm, Bulacan. Photo by Wowie

“Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.”

- Pope Francis in Laudato Si #13

When it comes to social justice and environmental sustainability, SCAP does not stop to advocate. Just recently, members of the national secretariat joined forces of like-minded groups and organizations to lead the newest youth arm of the Global Catholic Climate Movement - the *Laudato Si Gen* (short for generation).

SCAP will work together with the College of the Holy Spirit Manila, De La Salle Philippines, La Consolacion College Manila, St. Scholastica's College Manila, San Beda College-Alabang, Philippine Women's University, CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Youth, Chiro Pilipinas, Our Lady of Remedies Parish (Malate), CBCP-NASSA/Caritas, Climate Reality Project, Philippine Permaculture Association, Green Convergence and GCCM-Pilipinas.

The *Laudato Si Gen* was created through the inspiration from the Youth Initiative of the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) launched during the World Youth Day in Panama in 2018. It is hoped that within this Year of the Youth, more young people will be encouraged to participate in ways of protecting the planet and those who are vulnerable to the effects of climate crisis. The youth arm is open for youth volunteers to help in raising awareness, community participation, and government lobbying.

The *Laudato Si Gen* (Philippines Chapter) will be launched this coming June 22, 2019 at the Quezon Memorial Circle. It will take place during the 4th Anniversary of Laudato Si Encyclical.

Make an action before the depletion of our resources become irreversible! To join, kindly contact Kuya Jonel Bryan Reyes at 0933.762.3682/0956.882.4705, or you can message us at facebook.com/scaphilippines

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SCAP 2019 CALENDAR

YEAR OF THE YOUTH

*Letters in blue are to be organized directly by SCAP. Letters in black are mirrored from CBCP-ECY YOTY Calendar. Dates may be subject for changes.

JULY

27
200K Bamboohay Challenge Launching

SEPTEMBER

Youth Ministers' Exchange Program
Season of Creation

OCTOBER

Visit of the National Youth Cross and St. John Paul the Great Relic
26-29
5th Visayas-Mindanao Regional Leadership Conference
Archdiocese of CDO

NOVEMBER

National Solidarity Month

13
Cardinal Joseph Cardijn Commemoration

22
Philippine Catholic Youth Ministry Awards
Closing of the Year of the Youth

24
Christ the King Feast Day

TBA
The Catholic Digital Youth Culture Summit

500 Faces of Christianity (Info Campaign)



WHITE & BLUE

THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER OF THE STUDENT CATHOLIC ACTION OF THE PHILIPPINES



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCA Solidarity Contribution for SY 2018-2019

- SACRED HEART COLLEGE-LUCENA (HS UNIT)
- UNIVERSITY OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL-RECOLETOS (SHS UNIT)
- UNIVERSITY OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL-RECOLETOS (COLLEGE UNIT)
- CLARET SCHOOL OF QUEZON CITY (SHS UNIT)

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

PHP 4,800

Down from last year's total of **Php 55,100**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SOLIDARITY

We are reminding all member-units for the annual membership contribution of **Php 1,200/unit**. Kindly deposit to the National Secretariat Account.

What can a unit get after the contribution?

- * Certificate of Membership to the Student Catholic Action of the Philippines
- * Soft copy of revised SCAP Operations Manual
- * Service Award Certificates for Graduating SCAns (Upon Request)
- * Microsoft Office 365 Grant for New SCAns (Upon Request)
- * International and Local Programs Priority Invitation (via email)

Where will the funds go?

Your membership contribution will be used for the National Coordinating Council formation and training. NCC bridges local units to the national movement. NCC leaders are the voices of SCA clusters they represent.

Contact directly the National Secretariat for more details and information.

Thank you!

JAN - JUNE 2019 DONORS

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21 June 2019

"**White & Blue**" is published three times a year by the
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