

# Friends & Disciples

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Family Day – June 2015  
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## Medical-Dental Mission 2015 St Michael Archangel Parish Calintaan, Mindoro Occidental



Missionaries of Jesus



# Medical-Dental Mission: Calintaan, Mindoro Occidental



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# Emptying Oneself for the Others

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*"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (NAS Phil. 2:5-8).*

We have just returned from **the fourth annual medical-dental mission**. This year, we went to the remote parish of **St Michael Archangel in Calintaan, Mindoro Occidental**, one of the islands of the Philippines. The Missionaries of Jesus working there, Frs. Fred Pinuela and Efren "Wren" Reyes, prepared a very simple but warm welcome to the 47 participants coming from the USA, Canada, Australia and from the Philippines.



Because of time constraint (due to flight delay – thanks to Cebu Pacific), the Parish Pastoral Council decided to hold the Medical-Dental Mission in the main church – people from the different communities, especially the Mangyans from the mountains had to travel for several hours to reach the place. However, what struck me most was how the lowlanders gave priority to the Mangyans. Every now and then, we had to pull the latter out from the long queue so that they receive the services first because they needed to walk back to the mountains before dark. And it was okay to the lowlanders who





came first to give up their turns. Talk about the option for the last, the least and the lost.

We thank all the participants who came all the way from abroad – leaving behind their families (children and grandkids), days of work (income) and **comfort** zones. We are mostly grateful to the young local dentists from Manila and Baguio who dedicated some days with our brothers and sisters in Calintaan. Both groups gave up something in order to serve more than one thousand needy people.

**We also thank you** – our friends and benefactors who were not able to join us physically but **who journeyed with us in spirit and helped us finance the said mission**. They also gave up something in order to help us serve.

Saint Paul tells us, through the hymn cited above, that our Lord Jesus gave up also something in order to serve (Phil 2:5-8). But the hymn does not end here; verse 9 says: “For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name”.

Friends and co-disciples of the Risen Lord, I urge you to continue giving up something important in order to share not only in the incarnation, mission, passion and death of our Lord but also in his resurrection. **Continue journeying with the Missionaries of Jesus as friends and disciples**. As Saint Paul tells us in the same letter, **let us do this with joy**.



“But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me” (Phil 2:17-18).

Imagine the work we can do, if every reader of this bulletin; if every friend of the Missionaries of Jesus **gives up something to be able to donate at least \$5.00 a month** – that will be of great help to our missionaries working with the different organizations rebuilding the lives of the poor, the indigenous people and the migrants. Imagine how much joy we can share if we give up a mere 1% of what we have for the mission. Remember the Missionaries of Jesus in your will, life insurance, etc. Together, let us help the lost, the last, the least, the lowly rise up. **Consider your monthly pledge as your gift and contribution** to God’s Mission as we celebrate our 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the Foundation of the Missionaries of Jesus.

Happy Foundation Day!

- Fr. Melanio Viuya, MJ

***Let us help you help the poor. Not everyone can go to the mission but anyone can help the mission. Remember the Missionaries of Jesus in your will and deferred giving. Consider your monthly pledge as your gift and contribution to God’s Mission.***



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# Medical-Dental Mission Daily Journal

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The Missionaries of Jesus Medical-Dental Mission in Calintaan, Mindoro Occidental, Philippines took place last February 20-23, 2015.

The group of 47 consisted of Missionaries of Jesus priests, friends, Lay Associates; nurses, dentists, doctors and dental hygienists who came from the USA (Los Angeles, San Diego Southern California area), Australia, Canada, Guatemala, and from the Philippines (Metro Manila and Baguio City).

**Feb 20<sup>th</sup> - Friday.** Calintaan, Mindoro - Here we come. Departure time, 6:05 a.m. Via Cebu Pacific Airlines, Manila to San Jose, Mindoro.







Be at the NAIA3 before 4:00 a.m. to give time allowance for check-in and security checks.

After the group checked-in, some were having breakfasts inside the NAIA3 airport while some couples were taking an early morning nap on the steel benches on Gate 20, while some were busy taking group pictures with their smart phones, iPad and iPhones. The flight was delayed for more than three hours. Cebu Pacific did not realize that it took away three important hours from the people of Calintaan.

Upon arrival at the San Jose, Mindoro Airport, we saw a big welcome banner and a group of local MJ Priests, Staffs and volunteers headed by **MJ Fathers Fred Pinuela and Efren “Wren” Reyes**. A green bus transported us to Calintaan. A welcome breakfast was served and T-Shirts





with MJ logo were distributed to everyone namely; Renato Calugcugan, Priscilla Legaspi, Prynnne Bansag, Lindsey Fugate, Geraldine Legaspi, Nelly Custodia, Corazon Lamila, Irmgard Guano, Carlos Juco, Lulu Juco, Ireneo Mariano, Marissa Mariano, Sherryl Mariano, Victorina Mariano, Henry Tiu, Ma. Corazon Panlilio, Carlito Figueroa, Bella Figueroa, Rosario Dino, David Prewitt, Emily Marcelo, Jovy Ybanez, Ma Elena Nerona, Finah Respicio, Jose Respicio, Mel Bautista, Francisca Muxtay Sincal, Beatrice Camia, Julian Camia, Eufrocina Camia, Yeliza Lee, Chico Zenaida de Guzman, Mary Fortich, Emelita Keller, Fr. Melanio Viuya, Sonny Santos; Jaime Carlo Patnubay, Francis Guarin, Angelo Guerrero, John Christian Buela, Ronaldo Posada, Darcy Calora, Danilo Danganan, Jed Ivan Torres, and Tristan Montano.

The place of our accommodation was like a hidden paradise with beautiful views of the beaches – an ideal place for weekend retreats.

**12:00 Noon.** The Medical-Dental Mission began at the St Michael the Archangel Parish Church. **Bro. Felix, MJ** and companions led the welcome liturgy followed by a short welcome speech and the presentation of the MJ Associates and local volunteers.







Hundreds of people lined up on the Side Patio of the Church for registration. After several minutes, the inside of St Michael Parish Church would look like a Medical Center assembly line:

- Nurses taking Blood Pressure of patients
- Skin testing for allergy
- Dental Hygienists - teeth cleaning and or filling.
- Dental Extraction
- Medical consultation
- Sterilizing and bleaching dental instruments
- Pharmacy table - medicine and prescriptions dispensation.





At the end of the day, about 500 parishioners received medical and dental services. Medicines, vitamins, prescriptions and some gifts for children were distributed.

### **Feb 21<sup>st</sup> - Saturday**

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 a.m. to St Michael Parish Church

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and then Work

This time people from other Barangays came in droves for early registration including the Mangyans - some of them from the Tao-Buid tribes who brought their families, children, siblings and neighbors. They walked down from the mountains to avail of the Medical-Dental services. The Registration Staff could tell that these Mangyans live a frugal and simple life by the way they dressed yet they showed warm and loving attitudes. They ate whatever food served to them. They waited for the rest of their group to complete dental services before going up to the mountains. They went back home with appropriate medicines and vitamins.

The parish staff and volunteers served lunch and snacks to the medical and dental team at St Michael Rectory.

At the end of the second day, more than 700 people including Mangyans received services, medicines and vitamins.













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**7:00 p.m. Saturday.** Fr. Fred Pinuela celebrated the Vigil Mass with the team. Some members shared their reflections, feedbacks, comments, suggestions and impact of the Medical-Dental Mission.

After the dinner, the great singers of the group led by Chee, Emily and Chat started Karaoke singing followed by line dancing spearheaded by Vicky.

### **Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sunday. Fun Day**

After the morning breakfast, some team members had the option to explore a nearby island. All day rest for some members.

**By 4:00 p.m.** - back to St Michael Church for the farewell and appreciation dinner with all the participants and local volunteers hosted by Fr. Fred Pinuela and Fr. Wren Reyes.

The Mangyans rendered a special presentation, song and dance performance. The awarding of Medical-Dental Completion Certificates followed. Each participant received a souvenir coffee mug of St Michael Parish Church. Then, came the sumptuous dinner with all the parishioners; followed by more singing and dancing. The never-ending Filipino goodbyes up to the bus parking lot saw some tears and laughter. Until we meet again. We shall return. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Lord, for guiding and protecting us and for being with us throughout our mission in Mindoro.

Thank you to all the 2015 MJ Medical-Dental Mission Participants who gave their love, support, time, talent and treasures, financial pledges, spiritual support and prayers for the success of our mission.

Special thanks to Fr. Melanio Viuya and all the Missionaries of Jesus priests for giving us the opportunity to serve, in our humble way, the poor, the indigenous, the marginalized, the forgotten.

God bless us all.

- Bella Figueroa



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# Inspiring, Inspired and Inspirations

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The experience I had in Mindoro was one of a kind. We always say that we want to help but it is rare that people to actually get up and do as they say. The happiness after actually going on this trip and helping all these people out was one of the greatest feelings I have ever felt. Seeing all of them come from miles and miles away just to avail of the medical-dental services was an uplifting feeling.

Spending time with these people made me realize just how rewarding it is to help others. It is not about the bonus points you get for being helpful, it is just to see the smile on their face, of the relieved look knowing we have helped them. It was an unforgettable experience and I am very happy I was able to experience it with all of you. We were able to build relationships with one another and the people we came to help. It was one of the best experiences of my life and I will never forget it. I hope to continue doing such amazing feats with everyone and reaching out to people in need.

- Bea Camia

This was my first mission experience ever with an organized group. Fortunately for my first time I was able to stay in a very nice resort camp, by the ocean, a bed, running water and good food with wonderful dedicated people. I learned a lot from the people from this part of the world, they are poor but their spirits are not broken. They do not lack a spirit of determination to survive under difficult circumstances.



Thanks to everybody for allowing me to be a part of this very professional group of talented folks. My part was very small in comparison to what so many others were doing. I helped this team a little; I would love to do it again. The need is great for God's kingdom!

- David Prewitt

My experience in this mission is very memorable. I did not expect though to have a very good accommodation; the previous year was entirely different. Nevertheless, our mission was also a success- like the previous years. With the help of local doctors, we were able to serve almost a lot of patients. Looking forward to next year. Now my goal is do mission yearly, help those who are in need. The innermost fulfilment is indescribable. I sense that through this mission we are sharing and serving God's gift to us. Thanks Fr. Mer for your leaderships and guidance.

- Irma Guano



Once again, I am blessed to use the gifts and talents I have received from God. I was happy to pass on the love that I received through faith. The Missionaries of Jesus made my dream come true and my unforgettable journey possible.





Our recent Medical-Dental Mission in Mindoro, continues to give me the "Fire" with a great feeling of gratification. The mission was well planned and organized starting with the Los Angeles staff and with the cooperation of the Mindoro Team. Our accommodation, transportation and nourishment were well organized. The local volunteers with the guidance of our missionary priests secured the fulfilment of our Mission and Vision in the name of Jesus. Fr. Freddie Pinuela, the pastor of St. Michael Church and the lay partners in Calintaan, provided us with a warm welcome and contributed a lot to the success of our mission – beyond expectation.

Rene and Chie, I truly appreciate your leadership and generosity of your three T's (Time, Talent and Treasure). Your positive attitude, energy and heart set a good example for all of us.

Thank you, David, for joining (as our Pharmacist), opening your heart and loving your new Filipino family. Emily, you have always made us feel your willingness to give and serve. Lito and Bella, you make us proud. MESC loves you as our "main representatives." And to the rest of our co-volunteers (you know who you are), for sharing your unselfish love, sacrifice and service to mankind, "maraming salamat".

My sincerest gratitude to Fr. Mer, for spearheading this great endeavor, for your love, care, dedication, patience and for allowing me to join and experience such rare opportunity in helping the poor, the least, the lost and the forgotten.

- Chat Dino



We are blessed again as another year of mission service passed. Thank you for the opportunity to share God's blessings as we serve those who are in need. A humbling experience to spread the love of God while doing so. There were many lessons reiterated: endurance, compassion, patience, camaraderie and love.

We are grateful for the hard work and efforts of those who organized and assisted the planning and execution of these missions. I cannot wait until next year's mission to be strengthened by the challenges we face and make a difference however small or big we can.

I would like to quote former president, Jimmy Carter, "I have one life and one chance to make it count for something.... My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference."

- Sugar Bansag

Joining the Mission in Mindoro, Philippines was a true spiritual journey. There are no words to express my feelings.

This was the realization of putting my faith in action and the answer to my (MJ) prayer:

"Give me the patience to sit down and marvel at your wonders alive yet hidden, in cultures and beliefs other than our own. Shape us into more devoted missionaries, eager to make You and not ourselves known."



This experience truly revealed the Face of Jesus.  
Thank you for allowing me to be part of this experience.

- Corrie Panililio



Peace to all! This is my 4th year joining the MJ Medical -Dental Mission. I am still eager and looking forward each year.

My contribution consisted in bringing the patients from the waiting area to the Dentists; holding the flashlight and handing the needed instruments. I also accompanied the patients to get medicines if needed. This simple task gave me tremendous feeling of joy - very thankful to God for giving this opportunity to be part of God's mission to help the poor. God reveals through them the face of Jesus.

While doing this simple task, I was praying and meditating. I felt great joy and heard God's voice in my heart: "I called you to help and serve your poor brothers and sisters." My heartbeat was very fast, and then my lips uttered, "Yes, Lord, I will do whatever you want me to do."

I know now this is my calling and charism; rendering service, helping and supporting the poor. My prayer is that God give me a healthy body and spirit so that I can continue doing his Mission.

I thank God for loving me this much and helping me find the meaning of life through the MJ Medical-Dental Mission.

- Cora Lamila



The Missionaries of Jesus Medical-Dental Mission in Mindoro was a great experience. It felt good to be able to help a community in need. It made me realize how privileged we are with the lives we have. The members of MJ Medical-Dental Mission Team were very pleasant, energetic and loving group. They were very accommodating and very positive. The trip also brought together my college friends not only to help in the mission, but to also to renew our bond despite our busy lives nowadays. It was nice to hangout after the missions to catch up on everything. I feel honored and blessed to be part of this experience and I look forward to being part of the future trip in Davao. God Bless.

- DJ Danganan

We are very grateful to the Missionaries of Jesus for giving us this chance to demonstrate our love of God and neighbors in actions. This was an opportunity for us to grow spiritually in a mission setting. We were able to connect the medical practice and other services with our personal as well as communal journey of faith.

- Marissa Mariano







The Missionaries of Jesus Medical-Dental Mission among the Mangyan was a way of giving back. I feel blessed by Christ's love in my life all for the help that he gives me. It is my turn to share such love to others. I realized many things in doing this mission. One of them was the camaraderie with people who have the same intention to serve the needy. I like to thank the Missionaries of Jesus for giving me a chance to thank God for all the blessings he has been giving me.

- Francis James Guarin



*Non nobis solum nati sumus* (“Not for us alone are we born” – Cicero) is an appropriate quote that reminds us that we are not living only for ourselves nor for people close to our hearts but also for other people around us who desperately need our helping hands.

We are given the virtue of compassion because if we look back there are people waiting for our help, to give them food when they have nothing to eat, give them shelter when they have no place to live in or give them medical and dental aid when they have health problems. They wait for the opportune time but sometimes it takes time before their health issues receive the needed attention.

Again, our group, the Missionaries of Jesus Medical-Dental Team had our mission. This time we went to Calintaan, Mindoro. Occidental. Forty-seven volunteers coming from different parts of the world had a chance to be of service to the needy. So many people to attend to and so much tasks to accomplish in a short given time. Selfless deeds that ask nothing in return.

Each of us only hoped and asked God that we arrive to the site safe and sound and then leave fulfilled and with more loving hearts. Each mission has its risks but God provides every inch of protection and he lovingly embraces us with a shield and armor to keep us from any harm. We might have different reasons for joining and have varied perspectives on seeing things but our focus was to share talents and time.

I admire the young people who joined us. They were exposed to this kind of service at this early stage of their life. Starting this early cultivates the virtue of helping the needy. One can discern how pure their hearts are when it comes to reaching out to the poor. It comes out naturally without exerting any effort. Sometimes I wish that I should



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have done it early in my lifetime but knowing God, he makes sure that it is always the perfect time. He is an amazing God and He awakens sensitivities as he strengthens everyone who does His will.

We were taught to “give and you shall receive.” “Seek and you shall find.” Finding something worthwhile allows us to discover places where our heart feels useful and appreciated.

Lead me, Lord, where you want me to be and use me so I may know more the joy of being used by you because “*not for ourselves alone are we born.*”

- Renato Calugcugan

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## Let us Help You Help the Poor

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Help the **Missionaries of Jesus and MJ Lay Associates** in their mission to bring the Good News to the poor! Let us help you help the poor for we know that not everyone can go to the mission but everyone can help the mission.

Remember the Missionaries of Jesus in your planned or deferred gifts that may include the following:

- ✚ You can establish *a charitable gift annuity* with Missionaries of Jesus.
- ✚ **Bequests:** You need to name specifically *in your will* the Missionaries of Jesus.
- ✚ In writing your will, choose to set up a *living trust to avoid probate*. You can list specific gifts from your estate to Missionaries of Jesus.
- ✚ **Your estate** consists of all the assets you own at the time of your death: cash, securities, jewels, art, your home or other real estate. Any of these assets would be an acceptable gift to make to the Missionaries of Jesus.
- ✚ Missionaries of Jesus can be named as one of the *beneficiaries* in your *life insurance policy*.
- ✚ Missionaries of Jesus can be named as a beneficiary of your **IRA** or *other retirement accounts*.

*“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:6-7).*

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## Mission Statement

We, the MJ of the District of the Americas,  
Friends and Disciples of Jesus,  
heard and responded to God's call to mission.  
We are called to assist in the emergence  
of a new face of the Church  
and we journey together  
integrating into the life of the people,  
in reclaiming their stories,  
in the struggle of self-determination,  
in the celebration of life and culture.

Please remember the  
Missionaries of Jesus  
during the Combined  
Federal Campaign.



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