Faces of Mercy
This publication is not for sale.
Foreword

Benedicite!

Jesus Himself is the true “face” of the Father’s mercy as Pope Francis writes in *Misericordiae Vultus*, the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. God showed this through His words and deeds to His people.

We, His children, should be followers of this example as we embrace His mercy and as we sincerely open our eyes to our brothers and sisters.

As the Catholic Church opens the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, let us look into the different faces of mercy within St. Scholastica’s Academy Marikina community.

The *Young Scholastican Journalists* (YSJ) is proud to bring you a collection of stories, poems, reflections, prayers and illustrations contributed by the members of different clubs such as *Art Angels*, *Servants of the Lord and Animators’ Guild*, other students, grade school teachers and staff, the Benedictine sisters and parents as inspired by Pope Francis’ 56 Ways of Mercy.

Together, let us answer the invitation of God to live in compassion and mercy.

That in all things, God may be glorified!
Editor-in-Chief
Khallyl Amelia D. Catalan

Managing Editor
Alyana Marie D. Fabella

Writers
Hannah Patricia N. Bombeo
Amber Noelle P. Caballero
Bianca Patricia A. Carranto
Sophia Mykaella F. Cruz
Aimee Therese A. Del Rosario
Alexa Evangelina S. Fernandes
Mary Grace Angelique C. Mendoza
Mary Juvy Ann P. Ponce
Loreen Gabrielle C. Quejada
Arianna Shay S. Zafra
Sophia Isabelle L. Yu

Contributors

Literary
Charlotte Abad
Hannah Balao
Mrs. Pamela S. Baroman
Chloe Berdan
Christianna Cachola
Daryn Iris E. Dingcong
Ana Daniela H. Percy
Aliah Roxas
Jamilah Samson
Maria Sancia Angelica H. Soriano
Audrey Trinidad
Sheena Vergara

Artists
Wynette Ashley K. Herman
Raine Andrea M. Mantes
Elleona Faith Suarez
Maxene Sofia Marie S. Velarde
Gwyneth Angela C. Zacarias

Moderators
Ms. Charlotte Christie L. De Leon
Mrs. Ciela Blanca L. Del Rosario

Special thanks to:
Animators’ Guild Members and
Ms. Noemi Grace Buena
Art Angels Members and
Ms. Maria Teresa Lavilla
Servants of the Lord Members and
Mrs. Cecilia Manuel
Mrs. Jennifer G. Medina
Mrs. Jonida J. Santos
Ms. Lorna Lyn Salaria
Mrs. Leovie Susa
## Contents

1. Excerpt from The Rule of St. Benedict
2. Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

### Poems and Stories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poem/Song</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Tula: Ilaw</td>
<td>Amber Noelle P. Caballero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malinaw na Bukas</td>
<td>Khallyl Amelia D. Catalan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Poem: When I Hear His Voice</td>
<td>Bianca Patricia A. Carranto, Loreen Gabrielle C. Quejada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revitalizing the Soul through Music</td>
<td>Amber Noelle P. Caballero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Poem: Give Me a Name</td>
<td>Hannah Patricia N. Bombeo, Sophia Isabelle L. Yu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embracing God’s Children</td>
<td>Alyana Marie D. Fabella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Tula: Tulong ng Kabataan</td>
<td>Alexa Evangelina S. Fernandes, Mary Juvy Ann P. Ponce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pagbabahagi</td>
<td>Khallyl Amelia D. Catalan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Poem: As I Held Your Hand</td>
<td>Sophia Mykaella F. Cruz, Mary Grace Angelique C. Mendoza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing the Gift</td>
<td>Alyana Marie D. Fabella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Tula: Kalikasan, Ikaw ang May Sagot</td>
<td>Aimee Therese A. Del Rosario, Arianna Shay S. Zafra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pagdamay sa mga Katutubo</td>
<td>Gng. Pamela S. Baroman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Prayers and Reflections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prayer</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 We Must</td>
<td>Sheena Vergara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listen to My Words</td>
<td>Daryn Iris E. Dingcong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 A Prayer to Pare Down Possessions</td>
<td>Hannah Balao, Aliah Roxas, Maria Sancia Angelica H. Soriano, Ana Daniela H. Percy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Social Media Usage Reminders</td>
<td>Charlotte Abad, Chloe Berdan, Christianna Cachola, Jamilah Samson, Audrey Trinidad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Illustrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illustration</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 More Ways to be Coming Merciful</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Let us think about the welfare of our neighbor in everything that we do, so that in all things, our God may be glorified! - St. Benedict of Nursia

Excerpt from The Rule of St. Benedict

Chapter 4: The Instrument of Good Works
- To refresh the poor.
- To clothe the naked.
- To visit the sick.
- To bury the dead.
- To help in affliction.
- To console the sorrowing.
Pope Francis’ Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have taught us to be merciful like the Heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees You sees Him.
Show us Your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that You spoke to the Samaritan woman: “If you knew the gift of God!”
You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests His power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be Your visible face in the world, it’s Lord risen and glorified.
You willed that Your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.
Send Your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and Your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.
We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.
Ilaw

BY AMBER NOELLE
P. CABALLERO,
6-CHARITABLE

Sa dilim,
‘Di ka ng-iisa.
Ako’y ilaw mo.
‘Wag mawalan
ng pag-asa.

Sa suliranin,
Maging matatag.
Hahawakan kita.
Sabay-sabay tayo,
‘Wag matakot lumaban.

Sindihan mo ang kandila.
‘Wag mong hipan
ng iyong makita.
Habang andito ako,
May karamay ka.

Ang Diyos ay nariyan,
‘Di niya tayo bibitawan.
Siyang nariyan,
‘Di tayo iiwan.

Siyang ilaw ng ating
buhay.
Siyang ilaw na buhay.

Tila hindi matatago na kahirapan
pangunahing suliranin sa atin. Marami
na ang nahalal at naupo. ‘Di pa rin
nababago ang sitwasyon. Hindi naman
natin isinisip ang lahat sa pamahalaan,
ngunit nakakalungkot isipin na marami
ang nakaligtas lalo na ang mga nasa
malalayong lugar. Nakaklimutan na silang
abutin ng serbisyo ng gobyerno sa
lokasyon at layo nito. Gayun pa man, hindi
ito katanggap-tanggap.

Makapagsilbi at makatulong sa iba ang
isa sa mga layunin ng Parents-Teachers
Association ng St. Scholastica’s Academy
Marikina sa pamumuno ni Gng. Leovie
Susa. Napili nila ang Pintong Bukawe
National High School, isang komunidad sa
San Mateo, Rizal. Maituturing itong isang
lugar o komunidad na malayo sa siyudad
– walang kuryente at maayos na signal ng
telepono o cellphone.

Nakakalungkot din isipin na napakalayo
pa ng nilalalakad ng mga kabataan doon
para lang makarating sa kanilang paaralan.
Suot-suot ang kanilang tsinelas, araw-araw
nila tong kinakaya at pinagtitiyagaan.

Bilang tugon, nagsagawa ng medical
mission ang mga piling magulang mula sa
SSAM. Maraming mag-aaral sa Pintong
Bukawe ang nakatanggap ng tulong na
ito. Natulungan nila ang high school
department ng paaralan na nagbabahagi
ng kaalaman sa livelihood.

Bukas palad naman silang tinanggap
Ika-11 ng Disyembre, muling binalik ang grupo para sa libreng eye check-up at sila ay namahagi rin ng salamin sa 29 na estudyanteng nag-aaral sa sekondarya.

Tunay nga namang nakatataba ng puso ang mabigyan ng oportunidad na makatulong sa kapwa. Ayon sa kanila, "Dapat nating tulungan ang mga nangangailangan." Bilin nga ng Diyos sa mga taga-Galacia (Galacia 6:9), "Kaya nga, samantalang tayo'y may pagkakataon, ay magsigawa tayo ng mabuti sa lahat, at lalong lalo na sa mga kasambahay sa pananampalataya."

Malaking tulong na maituturing sa mga mag-aaral ang mga salamin na natanggap nila dahil mas nakatulong ito sa kanilang pag-aaral. Lubos ang kanilang pasasalamat at sila ay nananalangin na sana'y magpatuloy pa ang mga programang tulad nito.

Hindi sila makapaniwala na sa kabila ng layo ng kanilang lugar ay nakarating pa rin ang mga magulang mula sa SSAM para lamang iabot ang tulong.

Nawa'y magsilbi ang salamin na paalala sa mga mag-aaral na mas lalo pang magsumikap mag-aaral upang maitaguyod nila ang kanilang pamumuhay. Bukod dito, magsilbi sanang inspirasyon ang gawaing ito upang lalo pa tayong tumulong at magsilbi sa abot ng ating makakakaya.

"Start the children off on the way they should go, and even they are old they will not turn from it."

Proverbs 22:6

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Hebrews 13:16
When I Hear His Voice
BY BIANCA PATRICIA A. CARRANTO, 6-PRUDENT AND LOREEN GABRIELLE C. QUEJADA, 4-SOCIABLE

When I hear His voice, I stand up and rejoice. My Savior is calling me. His angels singing in good symphony.

When I hear His voice, He gives me a choice. To sing with Him, Or just cover my ears.

When I hear His voice, I make a choice. I lift my hands and pray, That all may learn to move With His rhythm of love.

When I hear His voice, I prepare His path. Make way, The Lord, our God is near. Prepare. We shall walk with Him.

Psalm 40:3 says, “He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him.”

God created us with the gift to make music. It is only right to praise, worship and tell the people of His love by using this as an instrument to reach out to others.

The OPM Covers is a testimony to how music is a therapeutic gift to the soul.

During club time and even on special celebrations and programs, they serenade the community. In addition, visiting and singing for the sisters in Saint Benedict’s Home is one of their activities that brought a new perspective among the members.

The club was formed to revitalize Original Pinoy Music or OPM, to instill among Scholasticans the love for our own music and to develop their confidence and self-reliance in performing arts.

Their club moderator, Ms. Melody Castillo expressed how happy, fulfilled and grateful she is everytime she hears good feedback not only from the sisters but also from employees of different offices. She added, “Performing for the Benedictine sisters is truly amazing. It is such an honor to sing before
them. It makes us feel even happier when they sing with us.” Some sisters even cry when they listen to the songs as the music leads them to recall the days of their youth.

The club president, Juliana Zapanta, also shared that singing gives them a chance to communicate not only with the sisters but to others.

Pope Francis himself listed this activity as one of the ways to show mercy.

“Can you play the piano, or any instrument? Can you recite poetry? Give free “concerts” to the forgotten people in nursing homes and assisted-living centers.”

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

**Colossians 3:16**

“You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

**1 Peter 5:5**
Give Me a Name

BY HANNAH PATRICIA N. BOMBEO, 6-JUST AND SOPHIA ISABELLE L. YU, 5-PEACEFUL

Give me a name,
So that people would know.
Something’s moving inside.
This womb has life.

Give me a name,
So that God would see.
How blessed you are!
"Cause I’m soon coming out with glee.

Give me a name.
Give me a chance.
Show me the world
Because everybody is waiting for me.

"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" says God in Isaiah 49:15. I pondered with this verse from the Bible after spending time with the children at Heart of Mary Villa or HMV.

I never thought that amidst the noise of commuters and jeepneys around, this haven along Aurora Boulevard, a busy place in Cubao near LRT Katipunan. It was indeed a right decision to join Ms. Charlotte Christie L. De Leon, my club moderator, Ms. Ma. Violeta Ochave, and the Life Mentors from the Student Development Center when they visited HMV.

Run by the Religious of the Good Shepherd (RGS), HMV provides unwanted babies with the love and care that they need. It serves as a temporary shelter until they find a permanent home.

Sr. Mary Lorenza Sangalan RGS, HMV directress expressed how grateful and delighted she is to lead this mission. She thinks that HMV was built in order to give love to children who have been surrendered to them so that they may experience love and care. She added, “You know these children are very happy when you talk to them and you smile, you laugh, you play with them. They love to be given a bath and of course you give them right food also.”

My companions, Ate Aileen Garcia, Grade 5 life mentor, and Ms. Ochave, the head of Student Development Center of St. Scholastica’s AcaRdemy Marikina, imparted their thoughts and feelings. This is a life-changing experience for Ate Aileen as she shared, “I think giving time to them is very important. Spending time with them is also one way for us to show compassion. Ms. Ochave on the other hand has a simple petition to the Lord for these children, “My prayer for them, aside from being blessed with
adoptive nurturing parents, is for them to grow up as responsible and God-fearing individuals, and for them to be grateful for all the blessings they will be receiving. To learn to pay it forward and to pass on the blessings to others, especially to those who are in need.

Looking at the eyes of the children while playing with them gives me a sense of responsibility as a child of God. Their smile and laughter somehow give me the hope that one day they will get the love and care Mary showed to Jesus.

”Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.”

Psalm 127:3

Joseph said to his father, “They are my sons, whom God has given me here.” So he said, “Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them.”

Genesis 48:9
Iba’t ibang damdamin
ang sa aking kaibuturan
Pagkasabik,
Pagkalungkot,
Panghihinayang
at Pasasalamat
Hindi ko malilimutan
karanasan,
Isang umagang marikit

Ako’y nasasabik,
sa bagong kakilala
Kaya ako’y nagulat,
sa aking napuna
Sa kabila ng maganda
kong paaralan
May paaralan halos
walang pasilidad.

Habang sagana ako’y
May mga batang kulang
o wala ang kagamitan
Paano na sila?

Salamat na lang sa mga
taong mapalad
sa bagong kakilala
Kaya ako’y nasasabik,
sa aking napuna
Sa kabila ng maganda
kong paaralan
May paaralan halos
walang pasilidad.

Tunay ngang maswerte ang mga
taong ipinanganak na may kutsarang
ginto sa bibig o yung tinatawag na
“golden spoon.” Sila ang mga tao na
kahit sanggol pa lang alam mo at alam
na ng lahat na hindi siya maghihirap,
hindi na nila kailangang magtrabaho
at hindi tatapak ang kanyang mga
paa sa maputik na lupa. Oo, sila
ang mga taong nilahanda na ang
kinabukasan at mga taong sobra-
sobra ang biyayang materyal. Pero
sa kabila nitong mundo at reyalidad
ng buhay kakaunti lamang ang nasa
sitwasyon ng mga taong biniyayaan
ng gintong kutsara. Bagkus malaking
porsyento sa populasyon ng bansang
Pilipinas ang lumalaban sa kahirapan,
sa gutom at mga pang-aapi ng mga
paralang ganito nagkakaroon pa
rin ng pagkakataong magkita ang
mga tao at mag-aaral sa pribado
at pampublikong paaralan sa
pamamagitan ng isang Katolikong
organisasyon ng mga pampribadong
paaralan sa Quezon City at Marikina
City, ito ang QCMC o Quezon City and
Marikina Grade School Consortium.

Ang samahang ito ay naglalayong
maabot ang iba’t ibang sektang
panlipunan na nangangailangan
ng tulong at suporta. Bukod sa mga
paralang pampibadong
paaralan na halos libo-libo ang pumapaksa.
Napakaswerte na ang mga
ng mga pampublikong paaralan
na halos libo-libo ang pumapaksa.
Nakatutuwang isipin na sa kabila
go malaking pagkakaiba ng mga

Kaya nga hindi dito natatapos
ang buhay. Marami pa rin ang
nangangarap at lumalaban sa hamon
ng buhay.

Ang samahang ito ay naglalayong
maabot ang iba’t ibang sektang
panlipunan na nangangailangan
ng tulong at suporta. Bukod sa mga
paralang pampibadong
paaralan na halos libo-libo ang pumapaksa.
Nakatutuwang isipin na sa kabila
go malaking pagkakaiba ng mga

Sabi nga sa Bibliya “Ang bawat
isa’y dapat magbigay ayon sa sariling pasya, maluwag sa loob at hindi napipilitan lamang, sapagkat ang ibig ng Diyos ay kusang pagkakaloob” (2 Corinto 9:7).

Kaya hindi na hinintay na masabihan ang grupo. Bawat taon nagkakaroon sila ng pagpaplano upang marating at maiabot ang mga biyayang lubos na natatanggap.


Ito ang paunang tugon ng samahan sa panawagan ng mahal na Pope Francis na iwaglit ang kahirapan sa pamamagitan ng awa at malasakit sa lahat. Ang Consortium na ito ay hindi lamang nagbibigay ng materyal na mga bagay bagkus naglalaan sila ng oras at panahon upang maipadama ang tunay na serbisyo sa kapwa. Ito ang tunay na serbisyo, ang serbisyon makikining sa mga pangangailangan ng mga batang ito.

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“Sa gayon, maililihim ang iyong pamamahagi sa mga kahabag-habag. Ang iyong Ama na nakakakita sa lihim ay magbibigay ng gantimpala sa iyo nang hayagan.”

Mateo 6:4

“Huwag mong hayaang hamaking ka ninuman dahil sa iyong kabataan. Sa halip sikapin mong maging halimbawa sa mga mananampalataya, sa iyong pagsasalita, pag-uugali, pag-ibig, pananampalataya, at malinis na pamumuhay.”

Timoteo 4:12
As I Held Your Hand

BY SOPHIA MYKAELLA F. CRUZ, 5-COURAGEOUS
AND MARY GRACE ANGELIQUE C. MENDOZA, 4-SOCIABLE

As I held your hand, I felt the love; Brother and sisters to each other, One in the Father’s love.

As I held your hand, I felt the warmth; We have each other Though times are hard.

As you saw my hand, You felt the love; Our Father smiled, And blessed us from above.

As you saw my hand, You never felt cold; Your know our Father gave a neighbor You can lean on.

As our hands reach the sky, We saw Christ with hands holding ours. We both know That the love He felt is the love He promised Today, Yesterday, And tomorrow.

Sharing the Gift

BY ALYANA MARIE D. FABELLA, 5-COURAGEOUS

As a Catholic educational institution, St. Scholastica’s Academy Marikina commits itself to intensifying programs of action involving all sectors of the community as stated in its mission statement.

To fulfill this mission, the grade school faculty initiated the “Faculty Mentoring Program.” Selected grade school teachers imparted their knowledge and skills to teachers from public schools.

For this school year, they worked in partnership with Silid Aralan Inc., a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the academic performance of low performing underprivileged students.

Once again, the selected grade school teachers from different subject areas shared their teaching techniques in coming up with more fun and creative classroom discussions.

One of the program’s objective is to improve the confidence of teacher in their craft through providing their students with comprehensive and enjoyable learning experiences.

During one of their Saturday sessions, participating teachers shared how this program is important and beneficial to
them. It gives them the chance to try new techniques in teaching. It also exposes students on many activities which can result in better learning. Furthermore, it can be an instrument in improving the quality of education despite the population of students in each classroom.

The participants hope that SSAM continues this program.

The English coordinator for the intermediate level, Mrs. Jonida J. Santos served as one of the speakers and facilitators. She shared how participants are able to enhance their speaking skills. In addition, it can help them on how to be responsible in sharing accurate information. For her, it was a good opportunity of meeting educators from other schools. It was a way of giving back to the community.

God himself said in 1 Peter 4:10-11, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”
Kapabayaan ng tao
Kapahamakan ng mundo

Magtapon ka...
At magbabaha...
Mag-aksaya ka...
At mawawala...
Mang-abuso ka...
Oo Ikaw ang kawawa...

Kaya mahalaga
Alagaan na natin
Kalikasan ay ating ingatan

Magtanim ka...
Imbis na magputol...
Magpulot ka...
Imbis na magkalat...
Mahalin mo...
At huwag sirain...

Ako, Ikaw, Tayo ang inaasahan

Kaya’t iligtas natin ang kalikasan.

Ang pananatili ng isang guro sa isang silid at sa mga nakagisnang pamumuhay ay hindi sapat upang magamanap ang tunay na mithiin at hangarin makapagbukas ng kaisipan ng kabataan at maging instrumento ng tunay na pagbabago sa lipunan. Kaya naman ako, si Binibining Rodelyn Sibugan, sampu ng ilang mga guro at si Sister Teodora Bilocura, OSB. ay naglakas loob na suwegin at akyatin ang bulubundukin ng Sierra Madre sa lalawigan ng Rizal na dati’y sa libro ko lang nakikita at nababasa.

Hindi ko malilimutan ang araw ng Pebrero 21, Sabado sa ganap na ikawalo at kalahati ng umaga nang simulan naming bagtasin ang bulubundukin. Sinimulan namin ito sa Sitio Apya hanggang sa marating namin ang Sitio Paglitaw makalipas ang halos tatlong oras na lalarin.

Tanghali na nang kami’y unang masalamuha ng mga katutubo ng Dumagat. Sa pagtatagpon ito agad naglaho na ang kanilang kumpanya at pagpapatanim ng mga puno ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources o DENR. Nangangamba silang maaaring maapektuhan ang mga lupang minana pa nila sa kanilang mga ninuno.

Wala mang suplay ng kuryente ang lugar, masagana naman sila sa likas na yaman.

Sa pagkukuwentuhan ay mas lalo naming naramdaman ang kanilang piling ang itinuturing nilang kanilang tanging yaman.

Sa aming pangalawang araw, ika-22 ng Pebrero, nagising kami sa napakasarap na ihip ng malamig na hangin. Ito ang isa sa mga bagay na ‘di nararanasan ng mga tulad kong nakatira sa pamayanang urban.

Tunay ang kaligayahan, kayamanan at karunungan ay tunay na hindi nasusukat sa materyal na kagamitan. Kaunlaran ay mahalaga, bagaman ang kalikasan ang nakataya, hindi ba’t dapat itong pag-iisipan ng mga lider ng ating bansa?

Kaugnay nito ay naalala ko muli ang talumpati ni Pangulong Aquino noong ika-30 ng Oktubre, 2012 sa Pasay City ukol sa mga hinaing ng mga Katutubo:


Ito mismo ang batayang pansipyo kung bakit isa sa mga unang batas na ating pinirmahan ay ang paglilipat ng National Commission of Indigenous Peoples o NCIP mula sa DENR, patungo sa Panggapan ng Pangulo. Dahil sa Executive Order No. 11, mas masigasig nating nabibigyan ng kaukulang atensyon ang mga karapatan, pangangailangan at hangarin ng mga Katutubo Pilipino. Mas mabilis na rin natin natutugunan ang kanilang mga hinaing ukol sa mga patakaran at programang nangangailangan ng maagap na koordinasyon at pagpapatupad.

Nawa’y talagang mabigyang pansin ng ating pamahalaan, ng ating mga lider at higit sa lahat ng ating magtutulungan sa pagbawi at pag-iingatan ng ating tahanan at ang mga biyaya ng May Kapal.

At kayo rin sanang nakatira sa mundong ibabaw, lalo na ang mga kabataan na nagmamakahiling na pag-aalala ng ating tahanan at ang mga karapatan.
Poems, Prayers and Reflections
As Inspired by the 56 Ways of Mercy

We Must
BY HANNAH BALAO AND ALIAH ROXAS OF 6-PATRIOT
MARIA SANCIA ANGELICA H. SORIANO AND
ANA DANIELA H. PERCY OF 6-PRUDENT

We hear the cry of the poor,
But we still hold on to our treasure.
For this problem, what is the cure?
How will we make this world better?

We must let go of our pride.
From the problems,
We must not hide.
For the lost and the troubled,
We must be a guide.
So they may let go of the sadness inside.

With the guidance of God, the Father,
We must work hand-in-hand
To save one another
And love our fellowmen,
So together we can stand.

Like God,
Let's spread the love.
Open our minds
To see the happiness He wants us to find.

Listen to My Words
BY DARYN IRIS E. DINGCONG, 6 – JUST

Kids like me,
Don’t want to give up our belongings.
It is the prize of our earnings.
We prayed so much so we can get our prize,
But when God gave us signs,
We ignore them.
I knew then,
We need to pare down our possessions.

Giving me hope to speak through this letter
Listen to my words,
And you will understand me greater.
Give me some time to explain it further.
Love, hope and understanding will make you feel better.

Though giving up the things we treasure is hard,
Remember that sharing will make you a good child of God.
Just think it over,
And pray a little bit harder.

I don’t want to end here with a simple conversation,
Without leading you to a reflection.
What I have written here is really a good confession.
Pare down possessions; share your things with the needy.

A Prayer to Pare Down Possessions

BY SHEENA VERGARA, 6 - JUST

Dear Jesus,

We pray for those who cannot give up their material possessions. Give them the strength and opportunity to be with their loved ones. Teach them to give up the things they are addicted to, so they may not develop the love for these. Help them realize that there is more to the things that they see in this world. Allow them to see the true beauty of life that comes from what You created and not from what man made. Be it known to them that love, friendship, their relationship within their family and other intangible things can lead to their genuine happiness. Teach them how to leave a life with appreciation to what is truly essential.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Be mindful of your behavior online. Is that post designed to improve your image... and leave others feelings bad? Are you hammering people in order to serve your anger and humiliate others?

7 Social Media Usage Reminders

BY CHARLOTTE ABAD, CHLOE BERDAN, CHRISTIANNA CACHOLA, JAMILAH SAMSON AND AUDREY TRINIDAD

1. I respect other people; I share good quotations.
2. I only follow people and pages of organizations that promote goodness.
3. I don’t hack accounts.
4. I do not bully others over the internet.
5. I do not watch videos that are not appropriate for my age.
6. I do not use inappropriate words in social media.
7. I do not like nor share pictures that promote violence, inequality and the like.
More Ways to Becoming Merciful
As Inspired by Pope Francis’ 56 Ways of Mercy

- Offer to run an errand (groceries, dry cleaning pick-up, dog-walking) for a busy parent or homebound person.
- Put down the phone and listen attentively to someone else with eye contact.
- Take a few minutes during the week to stop at a church and sit before the Tabernacle simply to be with Christ, the Merciful. If you cannot do that, meditate upon the crucifix.
- Make a point to smile, greet or make conversation with someone who is not in your everyday circle.
- Call someone whom you know is lonely, even if you understand why he or she is lonely. Especially if you do.
- Visit the graves of your ancestors, or visit a local cemetery and walk around, praying a Rosary for all the souls buried there.
How can I be an agent of mercy?
“Let us be renewed by God’s mercy. Let us be loved by Jesus. Let us enable the power of His love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.” - Pope Francis