



THE INSTITUTE FOR PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT
EMPOWERING THE PEOPLE OF GOD
FOR GREATER SERVICE IN THE CHURCH

The IPD Forum

“O Give Thanks to the LORD...”

2006—2007

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The trainings we offer are:

- Rooted in Scriptures and the teachings of the church
- Pastoral in orientation
- Process-oriented and participative
- Brief in duration; to fit the busy lay person
- Immediately applicable
- Transferable and replicable
- Conducted in an environment of prayer and Christian Community
- Rich in cross-cultural experience

Dear IPD Friend and Partner in Mission,

From the bottom of our hearts we want to say “Thank You” for all you have done to make the Kingdom of



God actively present in this world ! Thank you for enabling the Institute for Pastoral Development (IPD) to perform the following ministries in the year 2006 through your valuable support and prayers:

We have touched the lives of 236 school teachers and staff of 4 parochial schools: **Holy Rosary** in Bicutan, **San Roque** in Alabang, **Sta. Clara** in Pasay and **San Isidro** on Taft Ave. With them we conducted a Basic Bible Seminar, Gospel Sharing Workshop, Discovering God’s Word and a recollection on Personal Leadership. They are now more deeply rooted in God’s Word and have thereafter formed themselves into regular small sharing groups.

We helped equip 145 parish leaders of **San Gabriel** in Sta. Maria Bulacan and **Sacred Heart** in Kamuning, QC for greater service and commitment. They now “own” their parish mission and vision and are more committed to achieving them.

Parishioners in **Pateros** attended a Gospel Sharing Workshop. On the other hand, the parishioners of **Our Mother of Good Counsel** in San Pedro Laguna were blessed with a Lenten recollection on Repentance and Renewal.

We trained 70 lay leaders of

the **Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (BCBP)** in San Pedro, Laguna and **Tahanan ng Panginoon (TNP)** in conducting more Spirit-led and



BCBP Binan-San Pedro during their Leading Prayer Meetings Workshop

Spirit-filled prayer meetings.

We also conducted Leading Prayer Meetings Effectively in February. This was attended by 24 leaders of various parish and transparochial communities in Metro Manila.

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We conducted two (2) **Script-**



Tahanan ng Panginoon Workshop led by Ruel Morales

In Focus: Gospel Sharing for Community Building By Celsa Paler-Uy



I have been facilitating different courses of the Institute for Pastoral Development these past ten years, but there is one course which I like so much to give—the Gospel Sharing Workshop. I took this course with my most admirable mentor, Ms. Menchie Rojas in IPD Scripture Ventures 1995, in Baguio City, and since then I have been using the methodology not only in my personal prayer time, but also in our family prayers. The children simply love sharing faith in the light of the Scripture. As they share, I learned about their dreams, concerns, plans, and issues in school, family and society. As it has empowered my family, so it has also empowered participants each time I give this course.

On the first and second quarter of this year we gave the workshop to the faculty of three parochial schools in Metro Manila; the Bicutan Parochial School, Sta. Clara de Montefalco in Pasay City, and the San Isidro Labrador Parish School, also in Pasay City. Al-

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though these teachers, most of them CLE faculty, have lots of experiences in reading and praying the Bible, yet they still testify that the methodology in the Gospel Sharing Workshop is so simple yet so profound. They said sharing or opening up of selves to the other was made easy; following the process with full understanding of the meaning of each step helps a lot in creating trust and bonding among themselves. As I observed them during the workshop and also hearing their testimony during plenary, I could really say that God has “anointed” this method, because his power of transforming people is very evident. At first they were sullen

and even reluctant to participate in the training, but after the actual Gospel sharing they came up with happy faces, although some were teary-eyed, yet they were joyful. I also witnessed reconciliation and confession which were not possible before according to them. All in all, the participants simply said, they were glad they came!

The method tackles topics on how to invite the Lord in prayer; how to read the text together with so much love and respect; how to pick out words or phrases from the verses with a mindful heart; how to reflect yet conscious of time management; how to give personal sharing, not by preaching or discussing, but simply listening with empathy to someone sharing how God touched his life.

The method not only provides venue for faith sharing, but also for praxis to take place. St. James said “faith without action is useless,” the method simply provides the Spiritual atmosphere for action planning. God wants his people to cooperate with his plan for salvation; he wants believing and serving people. The method offers a scheme on how to plan responses to the needs of the community.

Issues may come from two sources. Issues from the Bible, because as we read it, God is challenging us to do something. Issues may come from life itself. How then as Christians do we respond to these personal, family, political, economic and societal issues? Is it not right turning to God first to seek wisdom and guidance and come up with Godly solutions to our problems and concerns? He wants to give us all the graces and blessings we need to walk uprightly in this life. God indeed is good!

Read the Bible and be blessed.



Our Stewardship in IPD

By Alvin Zenarosa

Stewardship in the biblical sense denotes both authority and responsibility.

In the Gospel of Matthew (Mt. 25.14-30) we find the parable of three (3) servants entrusted with various number of talents. To the first steward, five talents were given, the second steward two talents, and to the third steward one talent. Each had the same amount of time to trade with what was left for their stewardship. Each was given authority to transact with their talent according to their best judgment. We also see in the story that the stewards were held responsible or accountable to the Master.

Upon the Master's return, the first two stewards reported a 100% growth and the Master was ecstatic with their results. The last steward who had received one talent however was punished, not for his mistakes, but more for his inactivity. The last steward simply did not exercise his authority, knowing he was held responsible for what was left in his care.

This parable reminded me of the great gift God has entrusted to us in IPD. The LORD has given us in IPD a vision and a mission. He enabled us with resources to fulfill our mission, blessing us with generous sponsors, benefactors, and friends who have kept IPD financially alive; a wealth of volunteer trainers, who unselfishly share their time and talents; and alumni who continuously champion IPD to their respective parishes and spheres of influence both here in the Philippines and abroad. All these are but a simple validation from God that we are still relevant (to others) for Him and that He still wants IPD to serve the Church.

This year IPD celebrates its 25th Anniversary. The Anniversary celebration will be on March 24, 2007 and we invite all to join us in giving thanks to the LORD. In line with this, we have launched a souvenir program to capture IPD's faithfulness to its mission through the years, and to invite donors so that IPD can continue serving the Church. Our celebration will be at Café Liza, 10th Floor, Feliza Building, 108 V.A. Rufino St., Legazpi Village, Makati City. Registration is at 3:00 pm.

The year 2007 also offers many opportunities of service for IPD to pursue. Though aspiration it may seem, we believe the LORD will allow us to serve in more dioceses and parishes this year. We will likewise serve renewal communities and various religious organizations through our Engagement Courses and Public Seminars. This year we will only have one Scripture Venture this November to give way for more Engagement Courses for the various groups who have already expressed their interest to avail of our services.

On February 5, a Bible Study Class, to be facilitated by Alvin Zenarosa, will commence in Makati for both young and old alike. The study will begin with the

Gospel of Matthew and will be held on the first and third Mondays of the month, from 7:30 pm onwards. On Feb 13, a group of Single Men and Women will have a session on Discovering God's Word. (What a way to spend Valentines Day!) On February 17, a Gospel Sharing Workshop for one district of Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon will be held at St. James Parish, Ayala Alabang, to be facilitated by Nini Icasas and Harvey Campos.

Several more Bible Study groups are also ongoing. One group meets every Tuesday at Ayala Alabang, while 2 others meet in Pasig and Quezon City. Interested parties may contact our office at (02)840-1585 and (02)840-5038 and look for Mark Dino.

Finally, 2007 marks the changing of the guard in IPD. After a long period of selfless service, IPD's admin assistant Pet Carcellar moved back to the Visayas last December to pursue a career in tourism. Mark Dino, a member of the University District of Ligaya ng Panginoon and a CYA member has since taken over Pet's responsibilities. Similarly, IPD Director Cora Santos relinquished her responsibility to Alvin Zenarosa in December, as she prepares for their family's migration to Canada in 2007. (IPD's loss will be Canada's gain.) We pray that Cora and her family will be used powerfully by the LORD in Canada, as they were here in the Philippines.



Pet and Cora at the Nov. 2006 SLT



In all these, we do have a reason to share the lines of the Psalmists (Ps. 105.1) "*Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples*" for IPD exists up to this day only through the graciousness of God. We continue to proclaim His deeds among the peoples.

May the LORD bless all of us this coming year!



IPD COURSE OFFERINGS

Scripture Courses

1. Basic Bible Seminar
2. Joy of Discovery (JOD) in Bible Study
3. JOD John

Management & Leadership Courses

1. Management Essentials
2. Steward Leaders Training
3. The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership

Trainers & Facilitators Courses

1. Training the Trainers
2. Facilitating Gospel Sharing Methods
3. JOD Teachers' Training Course

Family Ministry Track

1. Raising Children for God

Ministries Courses

1. Preaching the Word
2. Catholic Evangelization Training Program
3. Leading Worship Effectively

Community Building Courses

1. Building and Sustaining Christian Communities
2. Team Building

Spirituality & Retreat Courses

1. Growing in Christian Spirituality
2. Guided Ignatian Retreat

OUR COURSES MAY BE TAKEN THROUGH THE FOLLOWING Scripture Ventures

A two to three week international live-in conference featuring a variety of courses. Participants can take part in one course per week.

Engagement Courses

Specially conducted for a group. Customized to suit their training objectives.

Interested parties may contact us at our office tel. nos. 632-840-1585, 632-840-5038.

Email <ipd.empower@gmail.com>

Web: i-pastoraldev.org



Scripture Ventures through the years

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Ignatian Retreat Oct. 2006



Scripture Venture Nov. 2006

ture Ventures. In July, 31 lay, clergy and religious were empowered to lead more effectively in their various ministries and to study the Word of God in a deeper and more meaningful way. In November, 11 religious and clergy received additional practical and spiritual formation through Steward Leaders Training. An Ignatian Retreat held in October deepened the spirituality of 10 lay participants.

It is IPD's mission and greatest desire to empower people to discover and develop their potentials, so that they can richly contribute to the spread of God's kingdom

here on earth. With God's abundant grace and you by our side, we know that we will be able to achieve these goals.

THANK YOU for sharing in our vision and commitment. Because you have given, we too, are able to give away much!

For His Greater Honor and Glory,

Nini V. Icasas

President

Institute for Pastoral Development