

# Vocation



BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FMA CANADA VOCATION MINISTRY  
DECEMBER-JANUARY 2017



## ***Sr. April Cabaccang, FMA***



### My Studies in Toronto

I recently started in the Masters of Divinity program at St. Michael's College. I am currently taking 19<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy (from Regis College) and Church History I (from St. Michael's). St. Michael's is part of the Toronto School of Theology, which means I can take classes from the surrounding colleges such as St. Augustine Seminary, Regis, Emmanuel, Trinity Colleges, etc.

My classes are on Tuesdays, and both are with a very intimate group of students, so we have good discussions in class. I am enjoying the readings and discussions so far, and sometimes even bring some of the things I'm learning for the goodnight in the youth group. I am very thankful for this opportunity to study something that will enrich my own spiritual life and my formation as an educator.

### TP in San Antonio

The theme for our TP Meeting in San Antonio, TX was "For Unto Us A Child Is Born... The Work of Christmas in Our Times": **Consecrated Life and Social Media**. The conferences were given by Sr. Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND on December 28-30, 2016 at the Provincial House.



We talked about how living our consecrated life is connected to the incarnation and should be lived everyday of our lives. In fact, we often repeated the phrase: "Christmas is everyday."

Then the second part was a discussion about social media and some healthy boundaries that we outlined together as a group. Throughout the sessions there were discussions, reflection, prayer time, interactive moments, poetry and SONGS! It was a lively encounter and a much needed time together with the Temporary Professed Sisters of NAC.



## Features

- *Studies*
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## My Studies in Ottawa

I am taking the Master of Divinity at St. Paul University in Ottawa. This is my 2nd year and I have 4 four semesters to finish. Currently, I have a full-time semester taking these courses: Leadership in Faith Formation (focused on General Guide for Catechesis), Sociological Perspectives on Christian Community, Sacraments of Christian Initiation and Theology and Spirituality of Icons.

## TP Formation—Cornwall

In January, Sr. April and I have a day of formation with Sr. Francine. It was focused on practical theology. We know that in our ministries, we can fall into the practice of working tirelessly without taking enough time for reflection. Practical theology allows us to pause and to reflect on our ministries which helps us see whether we do what we are called to do as Salesian sisters. The method Sr. Francine took was a theological reflection with a Salesian spin added. Our January encounter was for me a beautiful day of reflection on my particular ministry which helped me see if I am doing what I am called to do as Jesus would do added with true Salesian spirit.



**Sr. Hae-Jin Lim, FMA**



**Dear Sisters,** God called me when He created me in His image and I accepted His invitation of becoming FMA 34 years later. So, my vocation is to become a Salesian sister in Canada. But, it is not done. Every day, there are invitations from Him and I need to discern to choose again and again to find my vocation of the day. Some days, it is a joyful invitation and some days it is an invitation that strengthens me more till the end. Yet, that is what I promised Him on August 5, 2015: to accept ALL invitations He presents to me every morning. It is not easy as we all know very well. That is exactly why we need each other's prayer and support. I ask you, my Sisters, pray for me so that I may accept God's invitation each morning without hesitation but only with joy and excitement.

*Sr Hae-Jin L. FMA*





**Sr. Joyce Bermejo**

**Novice**



## My Journey:

So far my journey as a first year novice in these past six months has been of constant learning and acceptance. I am seeing the beauty of the Salesian charism and also the challenges it entails in day to day living, especially as it is applied in community life.

## My Joys:

One of my greatest joys is being creative with my personal prayer life, which the environment of the novitiate provides. That joy is playing piano and guitar, for liturgy, prayer services, and in my own free time. Playing music has helped me express my love for God, grow closer to him, and share this gift with the community. Like Don Bosco says, "A house without music is like a body without a soul." How true!

## Challenges:

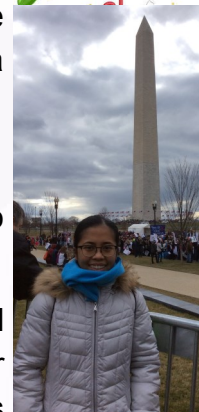
One of my challenges is growing to accept myself as I am, as I study the Constitutions, I see the challenge that it entails in reality. After all, my vocation is not only for me. This vocation is a call to love others, so I am challenged with "being the sign of God's foreseeing love."

## Studies and Community life:

I enjoy my classes and outings with my 1st and 2nd year companions. So far we've gone to New York, Divine Mercy Shrine, and just yesterday, to the March for Life.

I really enjoy planning and doing group presentations with them especially when we entertained our elderly sisters with "The Wheel of Fortune" (with Christmas songs, dance and prizes) for Christmas. I would say that in our Novitiate community along with the FMAs, our meal times and recreation are often filled with laughter and joy.

We are truly a family that likes to tease each other (playfully) and laughter is the music that fills our house.





# Our Vocation Message



Dear Sisters, At our parish in November, we had an Open House where we had a booth to tell parishioners about the FMA, our life and works. In our youth group, in Advent, we talked about the Annunciation and the mission that God has for each of us, and a presentation by some Passionist Sisters who also talked about vocation. At the high school retreats, we have had personal conversations with the students who wonder "how did I know that I wanted to be a Sister." Through these conversations and initiatives we are slowly planting the seeds of vocation in their hearts, at least for them to start asking the question: "What does God want me to do in life?" Of course, we have a more direct venue for these conversations in our *Duc in Altum* where we have a solid group of Duc-ers and leaders who are searching for their vocation. Everyday we pray for these seeds to grow through the intercession of Our Lady.

*Sr April C. FMA*



Greetings to all of you, Sisters in Canada!  
I miss you all, but I keep a special place in my heart for all of you. I try to do some of the mass responses in French ("Je ne suis pas digne de te recevoir mais dis seulement une parole, et je serais guéris") so I don't lose it.) Also in view of our unification, I feel joy in my heart whenever a Canadian Sister's name comes up as the sister we pray for in our chapel for the day. So you are all in my prayers! Let us always stay united in the Eucharist!

Happy Feast of St. John Bosco! Da mihi animas coeterra tolle!

Love, *Sr. Joyce B.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS - Let's pray for good vocations!

### Discernment Day Weekend: February 10-12, 2017

A young Lady is coming to make her discernment days here in Cornwall. .

### Skype

Sr. Cora gives Skype encounters to young women open to vocation conversations. There are 2 ladies she regularly skypes.

### Come and Visit Days -March 17-19 ; April 29-29, 2017

Let young women know we welcome visits for a chat, prayer, community with ministry experience and accompaniment as well.

### Vocation Mission -March 9-10, 2017

Let us accompany Sr. Hae-Jin during her Vancouver trip to talk to school children belonging to the Salesian Parish in Surrey, B.C. She will also meet youth after Sunday Masses.

### COME AND SEE RETREAT - JUNE 23-25, 2107

Let's pray for 5 or more young women to attend this important vocation retreat weekend!



**Coraggio! Avanti!**