

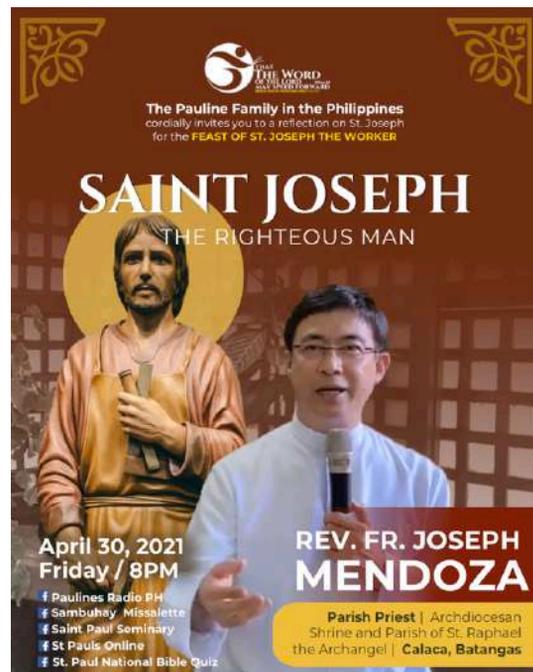
WORDWAVE

INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE PAULINE FAMILY YEAR OF THE BIBLE



REFLECTION ON SAINT JOSEPH IN THE PAULINE BIBLE YEAR

THE PAULINE FAMILY in the Philippines, through its Committee for the Bible Year, organized an online reflection on Saint Joseph which was shared online in the evening of April 30, 2021, the eve of the memorial of St. Joseph the Worker (May 1). The invited speaker was **Fr. Joseph Mendoza**, the parish priest of the Archdiocesan Shrine and Parish of St. Raphael the Archangel in Calaca, Batangas, and head exorcist of the archdiocese of Lipa. Talking of *“Joseph, the Righteous Man”* Fr. Mendoza shared his reflections on the topics touching on the name JOSEPH. Letter “J” stands for Joseph being a JUST man. “O” points to Joseph as OBEDIENT to God’s call and to his being OBRERO or worker. “S” points to his SILENCE and SIMPLICITY, and “E” to his EXEMPLARY character and his EXTRAORDINARY way of doing God’s will.



“P” points to his being PROTECTOR of his family and his care of Jesus with PATERNAL heart. Lastly, “H” speaks of Joseph’s HUMILITY.

Referring to the theme of WORK, Fr. Mendoza speaks of it as earning an honest living, as providing for one’s family, and as giving dignity and joy as one eats bread that is the fruit of one’s labor — all true of Saint Joseph the Worker.

The speaker was introduced by **Lulu Pecheula**, a close collaborator of the Daughters of St. Paul and a member of the Association of Pauline Cooperators.

The Local Committee for the Pauline Bible Year is also preparing for a reflection on *“Amoris Laetitia Family”* to be premiered close to August 20, the foundation anniversary of the Society of St. Paul and the beginning of the Pauline Family. This will feature speakers from the Institute of the Holy Family and the Association of Pauline Cooperators.



IMSA BIBLICAL INITIATIVES FOR THE PAULINE FAMILY BIBLE YEAR

By Ruth C. Suarez, IMSA



The Pauline Family celebrates the Year of the Word of God from November 26, 2020 until November 26, 2021, with the theme *“That the Word of the Lord may Speed Forward”* (2 Thes 3:1). For this occasion all the Pauline congregations and institutes try their best to come up with programs and activities which would motivate them to incarnate the Word of God in their lives.

The following are some of the activities we, IMSA members, participate in:

- 1) *Lectio Divina* which the members started last January, 2021 at IMSA Center. We wish to continue this activity as a community at least every quarter. Members can practice it individually especially during their Visit.

- 2) Bible Marathon which was hosted by the Lectors and Commentators of the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish last January 23, 2021. This event was participated by us lectors and commentators of the parish together with some SSP priests and brothers.
- 3) Some IMSA members were given the opportunity to share their reflections from the Gospel in the Paulines Radio Program which is aired every day in the morning. This program, called *Mabuting Balita*, is hosted by Sr. Lines Salazar, FSP and is carried in Facebook and You Tube. The five-minute daily Gospel reflection is designed to bring hope to the poor, to share informative, moral and spiritual values to families, and to console the sick and the troubled. The audience rely on the Word of God for strength and comfort. The IMSA sharers include Ester Bagac, Dina Urciana, Doris Montales, Issa Manigbas, Vicky Lucero, Ruth Suarez, Precy Palad and Gigi Lastimosa.

We praise and thank God for the wisdom and inspiration he has given to each one of us to share his message of hope, love and mercy to everyone. A mission entrusted to us as Christians especially this year of the celebration of the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines.



SPNBQ “FAITH OR FAKE” REACHES 14TH EDITION

THE ST. PAUL NATIONAL BIBLE QUIZ (SPNBQ) that has gone online with a new format since the start of pandemic COVID-19 has arrived at its 14th episode of “Faith or Fake” on May 22, 2021. Patterned after the TV show “Celebrity Challenge,” it features guest participants (one or two at a time) who choose from among three possible answers for a question from the Bible. The participants are “guided” by Bible mentors from the SSP and PDDM whose role supposedly is to direct them to the right answer but may feed them with fake information.



This enjoyable Bible Quiz is gathering more viewers from all over the country and abroad. Participants have come also from the SSP Juniors and Aspirants as well as the Institute of the Holy Family.





JOINING THE SPNBQ “FAITH OR FAKE”

By **Fray Albert Benedict Soliman, OSA**
March 6, 2021 Contestant

I was already exposed to the Bible as a little boy. We still have back at home my late grandfather’s New Testament in Kapampangan with its simple drawings, a *Christian Community Bible* which I doodled on as a kid, and the ten-volume *The Bible Story* which I naturally liked for its pictures.

During my first year in high school in the University of the Assumption in Pampanga, I was recommended by a classmate to represent our school in Bible and Marian Quiz Bees. Our team proved to be champions for more than half of the Quiz Bees we joined in, although they were only up to the archdiocesan level.

I was able once again to enter into Bible Quiz Bee during my college seminary years. However, once I entered the *professorium* stage in my formation as an Augustinian friar, I was not allowed to participate; instead, I was requested to formulate the questions, and it was through the questions that I poured out my “revenge” for being excluded.

In the time of pandemic, we were having our online class with Sr. Nimfa Ebor, PDDM. She invited some of her students at the Recoletos School of Theology to join in the St. Paul National Bible Quiz’s “Faith or Fake,” and it turned out that my brothers at her class recommended me as the community’s “sacrificial lamb!” As it was a Bible Quiz which I could not join for the longest time, I was more than ready to accept, and when my formation master agreed to let me join, it made me exclaim an “Alleluia” even during Lent.

When the day arrived, I was excited and a little nervous. Excited, because joining “Faith or Fake” is, in a way, a dream come true, as it is an extension of the SPNBQ. Nervous, because it would be the first episode of “Faith or Fake” wherein a team would be the guest participants. There was this pressure not to have a bad performance, since earlier guests did well even while going solo. The pressure

became a *little* highlighted when we had two Scripture scholars as tutors for the show: Sr. Nimfa and Fr. Gil Alinsangan. But after the barrage of questions, Fray Jhoben Rodriguez, OAR and I were relieved that we fought a good fight, and held on quite well. In the end, the excitement, pressure and nervousness led to a sense of fulfillment and relief as we sailed through both rounds.

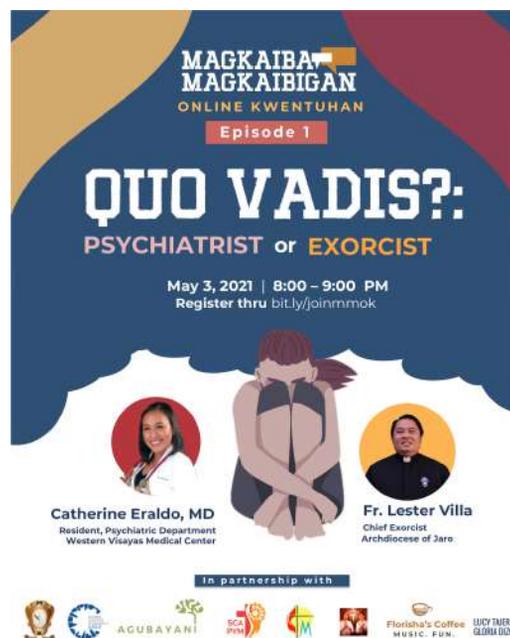
I must say, that was quite a journey—and it all began with the Bibles we had at home! Truth be told, after all those Bible Quiz Bees and classes in theology, I was more and more impelled to realize that what I know from the Bible is but “a drop of the bucket, as rust on the scales” (Is 40:15). The wrong answers I have had in previous Bible Quiz Bees are a proof of that. But it is not a reason for us to be discouraged. The Word of God remains, in the words of our father Saint Augustine, “ever ancient, ever new” and there is more to it than what we have known and will ever know—but even a simple “verse of the day” or a Bible Quiz Bee can help us learn from the richness of the Sacred Scriptures. Thomas à Kempis, however, warns that “to be well versed in Scripture and all the sayings of philosophers will not profit you if you are without God’s love and His grace” (*The Imitation of Christ*). That is why the Church, in her wisdom, teaches us that “prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture, so that God and man may talk together” (*Dei Verbum*, 25).



SSP ASPIRANTS TURN TO ONLINE TO PROMOTE CULTURE OF DIALOGUE

POPE FRANCIS shares, "If there is one word that we should never tire of repeating, it is this: dialogue. We are called to promote a culture of dialogue by every possible means and thus to rebuild the fabric of society. The culture of dialogue entails a true apprenticeship and a discipline that enables us to view others as valid dialogue partners..."

To counter the growing culture of polarizing and canceling, SSP aspirants in St. Paul Seminary have organized a series of "conversation" where two guests from different backgrounds and perspectives talk about a common interest. It is called "*Magkaiba, Makaibigan* (Different yet Friends) Online Conversation."



The three episodes have been livestreamed in Facebook page on Sunday evenings of May. **Episode 1: Quo Vadis?** featured a conversation on faith and mental health between Fr. Lester Villa, chief exorcist of the Archdiocese of Jaro, and Dr. Catherine Eraldo, psychiatrist from the Western Visayas Medical Center. On **Episode 2: Marriage and Religious Vows**, Sr. Rhodora Asuncion of the Daughters of Saint Paul shared her insights on love and vocation together with a married couple, **Sam and Gheena Teodoro**. **Episode 3**, which happened on *World Communications Sunday*, was a lively dialogue on **Platforms and Presence: Creating Change Offlignmailne and Online**. Krishna Ariola, a youth activist from Youth for Climate Hope shared about the potential of online campaigns while Stephen Borja, secretariat of the CBCP – Episcopal Commission on Youth shared about the lessons of youth ministry work and his recently-organized Community Pantry in Tondo, Manila.

