ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS

- Sept. 5 - Theology Class for Dads
- Sept. 6 - 1st Sunday Recollection (Sponsoring level: Grade 4 Parents)
- Sept. 8 - Birthday of Our Lady
- Sept. 9 - Middle Childhood Course Case No. 2 (for Grade 3 Parents)
- Sept. 12 - Theology Class for Dads/NPEP Module 3 at Woodrose School/2nd PQF (Afternoon School)
- Sept. 17—3rd Thursday Recollection
- Sept. 19 - Theology Class for Dads/NPEP Module 3 at Southridge School
- Sept. 26—Theology Class for Dads
- Sept. 26-27—Grade 9 Father & Son Outing
- Sept. 27—4th Sunday Recollection for the Afternoon School Fathers/Basic Catholic Doctrine Class for Afternoon School Fathers & Mothers

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Quotes about Poverty from Pope Francis
Formative Activities for Parents

PARENT'S FIRST

LOVING THE POOR

Take part with your family in the adventure of encountering Jesus in the poor and gaining great wisdom from it

WHY LOVE AND VISIT THE POOR?

**It heals our pettiness, selfishness and materialism.** Blessed Alvaro del Portillo said: “It makes us see that often we are concerned about foolish things that are simply the result of our own selfishness and pettiness.” The Catechism states that “Love for the poor is incompatible with immoderate love of riches or their selfish use.”

**The poor give us great wisdom.** Pope Francis told us of the wise lessons we can learn from them: dignity is not based on possessions; humility; trust in God; generosity; spirit of detachment. St. Josemaria wrote that “The poor are my best spiritual book”. *(Furrow 827)*

**It is a soul-enriching encounter with Jesus Christ.** St. Josemaria explained that the goal of visiting the poor is “to see Jesus in the poor, the sick, the helpless, the lonely, the suffering, in the child. So [young people] will learn to wage a great battle against misery, against ignorance, against disease, against suffering.” He said that “contact with poverty is an occasion that the Lord usually uses, to enkindle in souls desires of generosity and divine adventures. At the same time, it makes young people aware of always having a heart for justice and love.”

**Through almsgiving, we practice the virtues of charity, mercy and justice.** The Catechism calls almsgiving “one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.” Because God created all the goods of the world for everyone, the Catechism explains through the words of two great saints: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." *(St. John Chrysostom)* “When we attend to the needs of those in want, we give them what is theirs, not ours. More than performing works of mercy, we are paying a debt of justice.” *(St. Gregory the Great)*
We follow the lead of Jesus and his Vicars, the Popes who want a Church of the poor for the poor. “Our faith in Christ, who became poor, and was always close to the poor and the outcast, is the basis of our concern for the integral development of of society’s most neglected members.” (Pope Francis) The option for the poor “is implicit in our Christian faith in a God who became poor for us, so as to enrich us with his poverty”. (Benedict XVI) Jesus taught: “as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.” (Mt. 25:40) Pope Francis taught that Matthew Chapter 25 which speaks of love for the least and of using our talents is “the standard by which we will be judged” at the end of our life.

HOW DO WE LOVE THE POOR?

Show great respect, love and caring for the poor, especially those closest to you. Pope Francis taught: “what the Holy Spirit mobilizes is not an unruly activism, but above all an attentiveness which considers the other ‘in a certain sense as one with ourselves.’ This loving attentiveness is the beginning of a true concern for their person.”

Start with just pay and extra caring for your household help.

Be involved in efforts to alleviate the problems of the poor and solve poverty. Take part in and donate to educational endeavors. Work “to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor” and reject “all forms of injustice and corruption which, by stealing from the poor, poison the very roots of society.” (Pope Francis)

Pray for them. Pray for the poor people that you see in the streets, the slums, on TV and in the web. When you pray “Give us this day our daily bread”, think of replenishing the needs of all the poor people.

Give spiritual help. Pope Francis emphasized that “Our preferential option for the poor must mainly translate into a privileged and preferential religious care.” Help in teaching catechism to the poor.

Make visits to the poor. (1) Identify the poorest people in the area or the most needful among the sick in the public hospital. To achieve a greater impact, the family should aim at visiting those who are most of need of consolation, i.e. who are suffering the most, the most lonely in the hospital, etc., (2) Bring gifts. It would be good for children to contribute to the gifts from their allowance to help them live the spirit of poverty and generosity. St. Josemaria recommended gifts that the poor do not usually experience. It is also good to give them spiritual items which can help them pray, e.g. prayer cards, rosaries. It will console them greatly, if we promise to pray for them and their needs. (3) Interact and converse with each person with warmth and affection. This is the most important element of the visit. “The greatest gift we can give to them is our friendship, our concern, our tenderness, our love for Jesus. To receive Jesus is to have everything; to give him is to give the greatest gift of all.” (Pope Francis’ undelivered speech for his Encounter with the Youth in the Philippines)

(Source: http://primacyofreason.blogspot.com/2015/05/loving-poor_19.html)
1. Let us never forget that authentic power is service, and that the Pope too, when exercising power, must enter ever more fully into that service which has its radiant culmination on the Cross. He must be inspired by the lowly, concrete and faithful service which marked St. Joseph and, like him, he must open his arms to protect all of God’s people and embrace with tender affection the whole of humanity, especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important, those whom Matthew lists in the final judgment on love: the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and those in prison (cf. Mt 25:31-46). — Installation Homily, March 2013

2. Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor. — Address to the Archbishop of Canterbury, June 24, 2013

3. A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table, but above all to satisfy the demands of justice, fairness and respect for every human being. — Address to the Food and Agricultural Organization, June 20, 2013

4. Poverty calls us to sow hope. Poverty is the flesh of the poor Jesus, in that child who is hungry, in the one who is sick, in those unjust social structures. — Meeting with Students of Jesuit Schools, July 7, 2013

5. The times talk to us of so much poverty in the world and this is a scandal. Poverty in the world is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons. Poverty today is a cry. — Meeting with Students of Jesuit Schools, July 7, 2013

6. When we are generous in welcoming people and sharing something with them—some food, a place in our homes, our time—not only do we no longer remain poor: we are enriched. I am well aware that when someone needing food knocks at your door, you always find a way of sharing food; as the proverb says, one can always ‘add more water to the beans’! Is it possible to add more water to the beans?..Always?...And you do so with love, demonstrating that true riches consist not in material things, but in the heart! — Address during the visit to the Community at Varginha, July 25, 2013

7. Essential to the attainment of these national goals is the moral imperative of ensuring social justice and respect for human dignity. The great biblical tradition enjoins on all peoples the duty to hear the voice of the poor. It bids us to break the bonds of injustice and oppression which give rise to glaring, and indeed, scandalous social inequalities. Reforming the social structures which perpetuate poverty and the exclusion of the poor first requires a conversion of mind and heart. — Meeting with Authorities and the Diplomatic Corps, Malacanan Palace, January 15, 2015

Outreach of Batch 2016 at Daughters of Charity

Outreach of the Grade 4 students last school year for students of Bayanan Elementary School Annex
8. But the Gospel is also a summons to conversion, to an examination of our consciences, as individuals and as a people. As the Bishops of the Philippines have rightly taught, the Church in the Philippines is called to acknowledge and combat the causes of the deeply rooted inequality and injustice which mar the face of Filipino society, plainly contradicting the teaching of Christ. The Gospel calls individual Christians to live lives of honesty, integrity and concern for the common good. But it also calls Christian communities to create “circles of integrity,” networks of solidarity which can expand to embrace and transform society by their prophetic witness. The poor...The poor are at the center of the Gospel, are at the heart of the Gospel. If we take away the poor from the Gospel, we cannot understand the whole message of Jesus Christ. - *Homily during the Holy Mass with Bishops, Priests and Religious of the Philippines, Manila Metropolitan Cathedral, January 16, 2015.*

9. You still lack one thing. Become a beggar. This is what you still lack. Learn how to beg. This isn’t easy to understand. To learn how to beg. To learn how to receive with humility. To learn to be evangelized by the poor, by those we help, the sick, orphans, they have so much to give us. Have I learned how to beg? Or am I self-sufficient? Do I think I need nothing? Do you know you too are poor? Do you know your own poverty and your need to receive? Do you let yourselves be evangelized by those you serve? This is what helps you mature in your commitment to give to others. Learn how to open your hand from your very own poverty. (…) There is a worldly compassion which is useless. You expressed something like this. It’s a compassion that makes us put our hands in our pockets and give something to the poor. But if Christ had had that kind of compassion he would have greeted a couple of people, given them something, and walked on. But it was only when he was able to cry that he understood something of our lives. - *Meeting with Young People, University of Sta. Tomas, Manila, January 18, 2015.*

(Compiled by the Editorial Staff of Theological Centrum — A Project of the Studium Theologiae Foundation, Inc.)

**HOLY MASS**
- Daily 12 noon Mass at the Chapel of the Holy Family.

**RECOLLECTIONS**
- 1st and 4th Sunday Recollection for Fathers (Holy Mass for the Families at 11 am)
- 3rd Thursday Recollection at Molave Study Center

**THEOLOGY CLASS FOR DADS**
- Every Saturday, 10:00–11:00 am at the Academic Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor of SR Building
- Every 4th Sunday, 8:30-9:00 am (for AS fathers)
- Every 4th Sunday, 9:15-10:45 am (for AS mothers)

**CONFESSION/SPiritual Direction**
- By appointment

**FORMATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR MOTHERS**

**THEOLOGY CLASS** - every 1st and 2nd Thurs, 9 to 10 am, Function Room

**RECOLLECTION** - every 3rd Thursday, 9:15 - 11:00 am & every 4th Thursday, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**CONFESsion** - Monday to Friday except Wednesday, 9 am - 12 noon

For inquiries, you can contact PAREF Woodrose School at 850-6380 to 83; 809-5508 or 807-6735 (local 123 for the Chaplain’s Office or 118 for the Family Orientation Office or locals 120,151,152 for the Central Communications Office)

**RETREAT SCHEDULES FOR DADS**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 10-13</td>
<td>Makiling West Wing</td>
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<td>Oct. 1-4</td>
<td>Makiling Main</td>
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<td>Nov. 12-15</td>
<td>Tagaytay Conference Center</td>
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<td>Nov. 19-22</td>
<td>Latag (Young Professionals)</td>
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<td>Nov. 28-30</td>
<td>Sangandaan (Open Retreat)</td>
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<td>Nov. 30-Dec. 2</td>
<td>Tagaytay Conference Center</td>
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<td>Dec. 3-6</td>
<td>Makiling West Wing</td>
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<td>Dec. 3-6</td>
<td>Tagaytay Conference Center</td>
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<td>Dec. 10-13</td>
<td>Tagaytay Conference Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 14-16</td>
<td>Makiling Main</td>
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Retreat fees (inclusive of meals):  

**Makiling Conference Center (West Wing)**  
Mon to Wed - Solo Room (P4,050); 3-in-a-room (P2,280)  
Thu to Sun - Solo Room (P4,500); 3-in-a-room (P3,150)

**Makiling (Main) & Tagaytay Conference Center**  
Fee is P5,400 (single room)

For reservations and inquiries, please contact Ms. Leila Lerios of The Philippine Foundation at 818-6004 local 201 or 0928-5063688 or email philfoundation@pldtdsl.net.

The Parents Formation Office welcomes personal write-ups about parenting principles and experiences.  
Please email them to mrinawat@southridge.ph