

## **REFLECTIONS ON THE 35<sup>TH</sup> CFM NATIONAL CONVENTION by CFM NAGA**

The invitation to attend the CFM National Convention 2019 came from Kuya Ver & Ate Babes Arevalo, our Area VP couple in Bicol. My first response then was "I can't & I won't" considering the preparations and many reports we need for my school's upcoming accreditation not to mention the extra budget it will entail. Nevertheless, every time we have our Self Encounter Vision & Commitment prayer meeting, Kuya Ver & Ate shared with us their experiences in the previous CFM National Conventions they have attended. As the coordinator of CFM-SE Batch 1 and team leader of CFM-SE Batch 2 Weekend, I realized that our support to all the efforts and endeavors of CFM National is very crucial for the movement to grow and attain its mission.

Disregarding my previous concerns, I found myself helping Kuya Ver and Ate Babes encourage our CFM-SE brothers & sisters to attend the convention, thus, 11 of us were able to make it including Fr. Patrick Villasanta, SDB, our Spiritual Director. That was the first national religious event I have ever attended. It was a convention with a HEART where warmth, excitement, and happiness were so evident among the delegates. Activities catered to all ages, topics were relevant, informative, and insightful. It will move you to action. There were opportunities for interaction and consultation on pressing issues and concerns.

As first timers, we tried our best to put our half page batch picture in the souvenir program, brought our Bicol culture by presenting a simple intermission number on the "Night with the Clergy", sold our famous pili nuts for our fund raising and with pride wore our Filipiniana Bicol costume. The intermission numbers and contest entries during the CFM Got Talent3 were very impressive and entertaining. Seeing and meeting CFMers from all over the country including the CFM elders were both a privilege and an honor for us. I witnessed real commitment, dedication and service in bringing God's love to people and families.

My attendance to the Convention consoled, inspired and made me hopeful and happy that there is a movement called Christian Family Movement of the Philippines that cares about building, forming and evangelizing people and families. Am looking forward to another CFM National Convention two years from now. To God be the Glory!

### **CONTRIBUTED BY SIS. FE TAPIA, CFM NAGA**

Good morning brothers and sisters. I was so full of excitement the moment I was able to register for the convention. It was coming from the fact that my Self Encounter experience had been full and enriching since the beginning. But I prayed to God to make me empty, to be ready for anything, void of any expectation. I just wanted to be filled with openness and awe for all the graces that God would generously send. And I was.

It was amazing for me how a convention as big as that would be conducted so efficiently. It ran so smoothly and natural, as if it was just a family party! The ambiance was so warm, friendly, and family. The content of the convention was so enriching and empowering as it provided me with

an opportunity to see where I had been, where I am. It has provided me with many inputs with which I can creatively craft my/my family's immediate and strategic course. It was simply grace-filled.

Until now, I am still digesting those blessings. I deeply believe they will slowly unfold as I face my daily routine with a prayerful thanksgiving for sending CFM in my life. For all the people who made all these possible for us, I cannot thank you enough. Lalo na po kina bro Dexter and sis Jessica, kina ate Babes and kuya Ver, for letting me share their room (though hiyang hiya ako kasi malaking hadlang ako, haha!), my teammates-- ate Fe, manay Naty, ate Vi, Tin, Merz, Gerry, Venus and our pilot Francis. Ang lalim na po ng lugar nyo sa buhay ko..pagpalain tayo lahat ng lakas to proclaim to the world that God is so good!

**CONTRIBUTED BY SIS MITCH VILLARALVO (SOR BAYANI)**



CFMers from Naga with Fr. Pat Villasanta



Sis Mitch & Sis Fe at the Convention with products from Bicol