

**From:** MFC Home Office mfcinternalcommunications@gmail.com@14875D.clients.bmsend.com  
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**To:** XAVY PADILLA xavyniceday@gmail.com

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## MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2025

*Defending Faith, Family and Life.*

### Message from the Servant General



*Hello MFC Family!*

It's almost been five months since we released the 12 Action Points, and I am so happy with the action the Action Points have started worldwide. But here's a fun fact: these Action Points are not for the next 5 or 10 years, they are until March 19, 2026! Yes! We have to see output within the year, and I am sure we can make things happen!

The first two Action Points—and we will go through all 12 over the course of the months—are:

**Media Hype** – Flood social media with news on what MFC in your area is doing! Make your social media accounts, but also USE THEM! Update them. Share reflections. Post activities. There are so many things happening in the world, but if we don't share them, people won't know about them! Don't be afraid nor ashamed to share what we are doing.

**Allow the Holy Spirit to Work** – Are you inspired to share something that will benefit the whole community? Don't keep it to yourself—share it with me! I am on all social media and

whole community? Don't keep it to yourself—share it with me! I am on all social media and messaging apps, so contacting me is not a problem. If the Holy Spirit moves you, move!

**Let's get to work!**

## **MFC Sections Conferences Recap**

*The Lord has truly been faithful to our community. Last month was filled with grace as we witnessed the fruit of various conferences held across different areas. Let's take a moment to look back and celebrate all that God has done through these activities.*



**MFC Kids – Mission Volunteers Retreat**



Last **July**, our MFC Kids Mission Volunteers held their MV Retreat, *Set Apart*, with the goal of empowering and equipping our mission volunteers. During the retreat, we also welcomed new MVs into the MFC Kids family. A total of **23 participants** joined from *Luzon, NCR, Visayas, and Mindanao*. Let us continue to pray for and support our mission volunteers!







## MFC Youth – Summer House Training 2025

Last **July**, our MFC Youth Core Servants from *NCR North, NCR East, NCR South, NCR Central, Batangas, Laguna, and Cavite* conducted their **SHOUT (Summer House Training)**. This 6-day intensive training and retreat was designed for all core servants of MFC Youth Areas. SHOUT is a key formation activity where we train and equip servant leaders for their mission as chapter and core servants of the youth section.





## MFC Singles – Empowered Servants Assembly

Last **July 27**, MFC Singles NCR held its quarterly **Empowered Servants Assembly (ESA)** for all household servants and above. The event featured breakout sessions—Couple Servants reflected on their calling with the theme “*Rooted in the Cause*,” while Singles Servants were challenged to shift from “*maintenance mode to missionary mode*.” Both sessions inspired the servants to carry on their mission with renewed love and purpose for the Lord!



## MFC Handmaids – Midyear Activities

This July, the MFC Handmaids came together for two grace-filled events that deepened their faith and strengthened their mission. On **July 8**, selected core members, zone coordinators, and NCR servant leaders gathered for their bi-

members, zone coordinators, and NCR servant leaders gathered for their **bi-annual fellowship** with Fr. Jojo Buenafe at San Carlos Seminary. It was a joyful time of sharing stories, snacks, and spiritual insights that fostered unity and renewal.

Just days later, on **July 12**, nearly 300 servant leaders from NCR and nearby provinces joined the **Midyear Recollection** at the Multipurpose Layforce Center. Guided by Fr. JD Zaldivar, the reflection focused on *“The Need for ‘Heart’ in Today’s World,”* inspired by Pope Francis’ *Dilexit Nos*. The recollection invited participants to return to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and commit more deeply to living out His love and mercy in their daily lives and service.



### **MFC Servants – Mission to BJMP Antipolo**

Last **July**, MFC Servants held a mission at the **BJMP in Antipolo**, where they conducted a **Life in Christ Seminar** for both the male and female dormitories. It was a powerful opportunity to reach out to persons deprived of liberty and encounter Christ through them. The experience reminded all involved that God's grace knows no boundaries and that every soul is worthy of His love and salvation.







## MFC Young Couples - Engaged Couples Retreat

Last **July 19–20**, the **Young Couples Program** of Missionary Families of Christ (MFC) successfully conducted the *Together Forever: Engaged Couples Retreat (ECR)* at the MFC Home Office, with 5 couples in attendance. This Pre-Cana formation aims to prepare engaged couples for the vocation of marriage through sessions on Christian marriage, communication, family life, and mission. Through talks, couple sharing, and guided activities, the retreat helped deepen the couples' understanding of and commitment to the sacrament of Matrimony.

## Fulltime Pastoral Worker Sharing

I am Anne Antonio, an active member of MFC Singles NCR Central and a missionary for Live Christ Share Christ assigned in NCR. Before becoming a missionary I was living life without much thought about faith. Back in 2014, a friend randomly invited me to a Christian Life Seminar thinking it was just to accompany her. That “yes” became the turning point in my spiritual journey.



Growing up, I believed my family was religious because we visited churches during Holy Week. But when I became active in the community—through households, assemblies, and various activities—I discovered that faith is more



than *visita iglesia*. It's a relationship, a way of life. Being part of the community helped me nurture meaningful and healthy relationships. I learned to open up, to love genuinely, and to embrace people who were once strangers but eventually became family. It also drew me closer to God in ways I never expected. I discovered Him through the sacraments.

I was having the time of my life in MFC, going on mission and attending all the events I can when a serious issue shook the family to the core, and my romantic relationship of almost eight years ended. I was on the verge of giving up. But the community never let me drift away. They anchored me in love and prayer, reminding me of my worth and God's faithfulness. That season of pain led me to go on missions for the Lord.

Mission after mission led me to become an MFC Singles Mission Volunteer. It led me to deepen my love for God and His mission. I would go where the Lord will send me and will talk about Jesus to people I don't even know. My corporate life as an Industrial Engineer once felt purposeful, but the Lord called me to lay it down and embrace full-time missionary work.

*The road hasn't been easy. It demanded sacrifice and came with suffering. But embracing this life brought incredible joy.* I've grown in ways I never imagined—from dreading Mondays to looking forward to them; from attending Sunday Mass to embracing daily Mass with intention; from wanting to give up to seeking God's lesson in every struggle.

None of this would've happened if I hadn't been part of MFC. It was through them that I truly encountered Christ to the point of surrendering and offering myself to Jesus. 11 years since my I graduated from my CLS, and here I am striving to *live Christ and share Christ*.

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## **MFC INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Eastern Region Couples Congress (ERCC) 2025**

**By: Bro Boyet and Sis Irene Altura**







This year, **MFC Canada** conducted its **Couples Congress regionally**, with one gathering in the **Eastern Region (Ontario)** and another in the **Western Region (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba)**. Unlike the previous national congress held in Vancouver in 2024, this year's **Eastern Region Couples Congress (ERCC)** was held on **July 4–5, 2025** at the **Canada Event Centre in Whitby, Ontario**, hosted by the **Scarborough Central Chapter**, and attended by **around 510 participants**.

The congress opened Friday afternoon with the Rosary and Holy Mass, followed by a powerful worship led by Bro. **EJ Aguila** and the first session, **“Persevere in Prayer,”** by **Fr. Arinze Onwuzulike**. The session flowed seamlessly into **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**, with a moving rendition of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Saturday featured enriching talks: **“Live Christ, Share Christ”** by Bro. **Jo-I Villas**, **“Rejoice in Hope”** by Bro. **EJ Aguila**, and **“Endure in Affliction”** by Bro. **Ed Yamba**, highlighted by a touching testimony video from Bro. **Narcing** and Sis. **Lori Eguia**. The day closed with a praisefest, anticipated Sunday Mass, and joyful chapter presentations filled with creativity and fun.

The congress was truly *empowering, spirit-filled, and uplifting*. From the worship to the session talks, activities, sharing, fellowship, and most especially the **Holy Mass and Adoration**, every moment echoed the profound message of *hope in Christ Jesus*. In a world that is longing for light and healing, this hope is exactly what is needed—and we, as **MFC Holy Warriors**, are called to share it through the work of evangelization.

The weekend powerfully amplified the call to remain *hopeful even in relationships facing trials, hurts, and hardships*. It reminded us that we can endure all afflictions by focusing on and *embracing the Cross*—the Crucifix, the ultimate symbol of God's love. For the Cross does not represent defeat, but victory in Christ Jesus, and in that victory, we find unshakable hope.

In response to God's revelation and direction at this congress, we are urged to *stay faithful to the life and mission of MFC*, expanding the work even more. There are countless souls waiting to hear the hope we hold in Christ. As we carry out this mission, we must also deepen our relationship with Him, especially by growing in our interior life, persevering in prayer, and cherishing the most sublime form of prayer—the Holy Mass.

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## Western Region Couples Conference (WRCC) 2025

By: Bro Ryan and Sis Karis Factura



The **Western Region Couples Conference (WRCC)** was held from **July 19–20, 2025**, just outside Winnipeg, bringing together MFC couples from **Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba**. For many—including us—it was our first time attending as husband and wife, making the experience all the more meaningful.



The weekend was a rich blend of formation, prayer, worship, and fellowship—a time that was both substantial and deeply encouraging. The theme, "*Hope Abounds*" (*Romans 12:12*), wasn't just a tagline; it served as a powerful lens through which we reflected on our marriages, families, and our mission in the world.

Each session invited us to confront the real challenges and distractions that often weigh on married life, while also calling us to anchor ourselves more deeply in Christ, the true source of hope. The talks didn't gloss over reality—they spoke directly into it. And being surrounded by other couples, especially those also navigating the early years of marriage, made the experience feel all the more relevant and authentic.

A particular highlight was the **Young Couples Summit** held immediately after the main conference. It offered a dedicated space for practical conversations around faith, family life, and mission. The small group discussions were refreshingly honest, down-to-earth, and reminded us that we are not alone in this journey.

As we return to our day-to-day lives, we bring with us not just the encouragement of the weekend, but a renewed conviction: hope is not passive. It compels us to persevere in prayer, rejoice in hope, and endure in affliction.

With next year's WRCC being hosted in Calgary, we are already excited to welcome the region to our home city—and to witness how God will continue to move powerfully in the lives of our couples and families.

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## **Always Hope: A Recollection for Xaverian Missionaries** **By. Bro DR Arellano**





Last **July 8, 2025**, we were given the opportunity to conduct a recollection for fifteen Xaverian Missionary priests. This came from a partnership between **MFC Thailand and Fr. Edgar Nava Pérez, sx**, the Delegate Superior for the Xaverians in Thailand. The missionaries were in Bangkok for a week-long formation, and Fr. Edgar wanted to include a session led by lay missionaries. His goal was to let the priests hear directly from lay Catholic communities and to understand how lay missionaries live and work in the mission field.

MFC Thailand, represented by Bro. Gerwin and Sis. Rizza Tuason, Bro. Romel and Sis. Marissaa Macaraig, and Bro. Roger and Sis. Bing Santos, organized the activity. They have built a good relationship with the Xaverians, serving with them by inviting them to events and retreats, and by joining them in the celebration of the Holy Mass and the Sacrament of Confession.

The group of fifteen priests came from different nationalities: Mexican, Indonesian, Thai, Congolese, and more. They were also assigned to various mission areas, including Italy, Indonesia, Japan, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. They shared about the challenges in mission and the providence of God in their life and communities.

Together with Bro. Cocoli Javier, we prepared for the sessions. The recollection centered on our community's 2025 theme verse: *Romans 12:12: "Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer."* Its title, **Always Hope**, was a reminder to place our trust in Jesus. We reflected on prayer, on facing hurts, hardships, and helplessness in the mission, and on how to remain steadfast and have endurance despite the challenges that come with missionary life.

We also shared light moments such as games, small group discussions, and prayer times. The meals served by the retreat facility were abundant and delicious, giving us a chance to bond and connect more personally.

The day concluded with the Holy Mass, which strengthened and reminded us to anchor



our hope in Christ. Though brief, the activity affirmed a deeper truth. That priests and lay missionaries are called to work together in spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Through our communities, we are invited to help each other live out this mission and to continually allow Christ to transform us.



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



SAVE THE DATE

# HONG KONG

SINGLES CONFERENCE 2025

**AUG 24** | ST. JEROME'S CHURCH,  
TIN SHUI WAI

 **MFC**  
SINGLES  
HONG KONG





# **BOND OF BROTHERS** and **BOND OF SOUL SISTERS**

**When: August 30-31, 2025**

**Where: Lobiano's Farm and  
Resort, Indang Cavite**

**REGISTRATION FEE:**

**BOB - 700**

**BOSS - 1,000**



# **CSW 2025**

*Committed Servants Weekend*

**AUG. 30-31**

**NATIONAL  
CAPITAL REGION**

**SEPT. 13-14**

**SOUTH LUZON & ISLANDS  
WESTERN VISAYAS**

**SEPT. 20-21**

**NORTH & CENTRAL LUZON**

**SEPT. 27-28**

**CENTRAL VISAYAS**

**OCT. 11-12**

**EASTERN VISAYAS  
ONE MINDANAO**

VENUE: GENERAL SANTOS CITY



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