

CFM in the service of the Youth
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God calls all of us to journey with the youth. They are the 'now' of God as stated in Christus Vivit (64) from Pope Francis. As such let us get to know them, listen to them, gives them a safe space, allow them to teach and show us of the world they live in.

The CFM has been a partner of the Catholic Church in the formation of the youth. The Sons and Daughters Encounter (SADE) was introduced in 1978 and has benefited numerous young people aged 13 to 20 the Philippines. Single young people aged 22 to 40 have the Young Adults Program (YAP) to help them discern their life vocation and their spiritual needs.

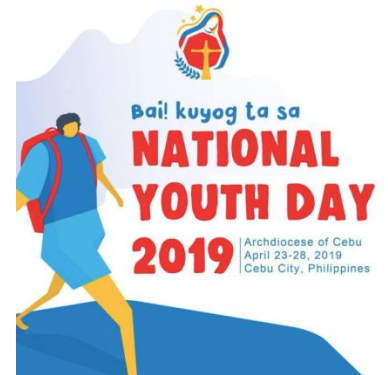
In January 2018, CFM kicked off the 40th year anniversary celebration with Thanksgiving Masses held simultaneously in various dioceses where CFM SADE is present (Bulacan, Bacolod, Capiz, Metro Manila, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Zambales, and Zamboanga).



To cap this year-long celebration of SADE@40, the Committee has decided to do an Outreach to the Dumagats. These people are nomads, but in the last couple of decades, they have settled in the Bulacan areas of Norzagaray, Angat, and Dona Remedios Trinidad. After getting the permit from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), we held the Outreach on December 16, 2018, at the Dumagat Resettlement Area inside the Angat Watershed Reserve area.



In 2019, CFM was one with the Church in celebrating the **Year of the Youth** by sending 43 of our beloved CFM Youth from Bacolod, Manila, Pampanga and Zamboanga to participate in the National Youth Day held in Cebu City in April 2019. In July 2019, CFM Youth in Luzon also joined Philippine Conference for New Evangelization (PCNE) VI with its theme **Filipino Youth Walking with Jesus**. All throughout the year, dioceses where CFM is present continued to conduct SADE and YAP in their areas and held trained future youth leaders. Aside from SADE and YAP weekends, the CFM provided opportunities for the Youth leaders and the graduates to experience God and the joy of caring and loving our community members who are in the fringes of society. Please see CMF Youth in action in the picture gallery below. The CFM youth activities by VP area can be viewed in the CFM website.



We enjoin everyone to read and understand Christus Vivit. It is not only a call to action for the Youth but also a call to action for the CFM leaders, parents, families and 'Gabays' of our youth. We are all called to 'listen and accompany the youth with their vocational discernment' (Christus Vivit, 291). Please allow us to share with you what we learned during the PCNEVI.

The Filipino youth are bombarded with issues that ranges from child prostitution, bullying and mental health problems, child labor, teenage pregnancy and abortion, extrajudicial killings, threat of lowering the age of criminality, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (or queer) ideation and abandonment. As the "adults", we are called upon to listen to them, give allowance for mistake, guide them and share with them that even we are not perfect. We need to build trust with the young people, listen to them, give and provide time and resources to help them develop, stop comparing ourselves with them as their reality now is different from ours, and share our true self with them. Cardinal Tagle's words '**All of us Shepherds must be sheep, if we stop being sheep then our Shepherding ends**' is food for thought for us.

The CFM is rich in formation programs that will help us shepherd the youth in our family and the community. Let us all participate in the marriage encounter programs to solidify our commitment to marriage to our spouses, attend the self-encounter to help us know or recommit to our true self and allow our children to participate in the youth programs of CFM. Our youth depend on us to accompany them as they find God's calling for them.