

## **35<sup>TH</sup> CFM NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONVENTION**

The Christian Family Movement 35<sup>th</sup> National Biennial Convention was held last October 25-27, 2019 at the Subic Bay Travelers Hotel in Zambales. It was the most well-attended event of CFM in recent memory, 450 delegates including two bishops, 8 priests, Solos, couples and youth actively participated in the 3-day convention.

The CFM Youth of Pampanga and Iba designed an Exhibit which was opened by the immediate past, present and incoming National Presidents (Josie Santamaria, Grace Kam and Agnes Yambao). During the formal opening of the convention, the 10 Areas and 24 Archdioceses and Dioceses where CFM has active presence were represented and paraded with their banners. The theme for this year was ***“CFM Becoming Good News at Home and to the World”***, This jives with the formation of the CFM Philippines Foreign Mission desk to bring our family and life programs to our ASEAN neighbors like Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia.

The National President couple, Elliot & Grace Kam, formally opened the convention and delivered their Valedictory Address. Tokens of appreciation were given to the National Officers, Area VPs and Committee Heads who have supported and helped them during their 2-year term. The Keynote Address, ***CFM in Mission with the Youth***, was delivered by Bishop Bartolome Santos, D.D. of the Diocese of Iba and he, also, presided the Eucharistic Celebration in the afternoon. After Bp. Santos address, Trish Pangilinan a



CFM Bacolod Sader and Yappy shared her thoughts and life experience living with a loving and supportive parents. Her article ***“One Love, One Family”*** can be found in this Bulletin.

The delegates came back in the evening with their best Filipiniana attire to attend the ***“Night with the Clergy”***. Plaques of Recognition and tokens of appreciation were given to our National Chaplains, spiritual directors and priests who were present during the evening celebration. Some priests shared their experiences in CFM even during their seminary days as well as their involvement in CFM’s encounter programs.

On Day2, October 26; it was the turn of Fr. Deogracias Kerr Galang to enrich the delegates when he delivered his talk on ***“CFM Building Bridges on Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Dialogue”***. This was followed by Joey Clemente, Jr. the Executive Director of Socio Pastoral Institute, who imparted to the attendees ***“The Relevance of the Spirituality of Stewardship to the CFM Mission”***. After the Synthesis of Bp. Gerry Alminaza, a workshop was moderated by Joey & Grace Marquez. The Eucharistic Celebration was presided by Monsi Manny Gabriel with several priests concelebrating.

The much awaited ***CFM Got Talent 3!*** was the main event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> evening. Aside from the outstanding performances of the entries to the CGT3, there were no dull moment during the night as emcees, Leo Felipe & Larry Mercado, kept the delegates glued to their seats laughing at

their jokes and banter. There were 5 groups who vied for the top prize of 10k and a Holy Family image. The entry of the youth from CFM Iba (*The Greatest Showman*) was the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winner while that of Our Lady of the Poor Parish (*remix of Bohemian Rhapsody, Grease & Footloose*) won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize. CFM Zamboanga's *Mamma Mia* got the nod of the judges chaired by Cora Ortiz and members, Fr. Pat Villasanta and Fr. Lito Ancla.

In between the contest, CFM Philippines awarded, for the first time, a Quad-Generation award to the Millora-Hechanova families represented by Millete & Ysa Hechanova. A Tri-Generation award was given to the Famador family of Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows. The CFM Foundation, also, handed out the Covenant Fund awards.

Day 3 started with a Eucharistic Celebration with Bp. Gerry Alminaza as the main celebrant. Albert Hechanova & Willy Napoles emceed the morning activities that included the induction of the incoming National Officers, Area Vice Presidents and Committee Heads lead by the incoming National President, Francisco & Agnes Yambao, and Executive Vice President, Sonny & Thelma Mendoza from the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro. The Inaugural Address of Francisco & Agnes Yambao followed the induction.



As in the previous conventions, awards for the largest number of delegates per parish and diocese were given to the Diocese of Pasig (111) and Our Lady of the Poor Parish, Taguig (35). The incoming National Board, Area VPs and Committee Heads had a meeting after the adjournment of the convention.

The Diocese of Pasig graciously accepted to host the next national convention in 2021!

