



AniMission

The CLMO Quarterly Bulletin

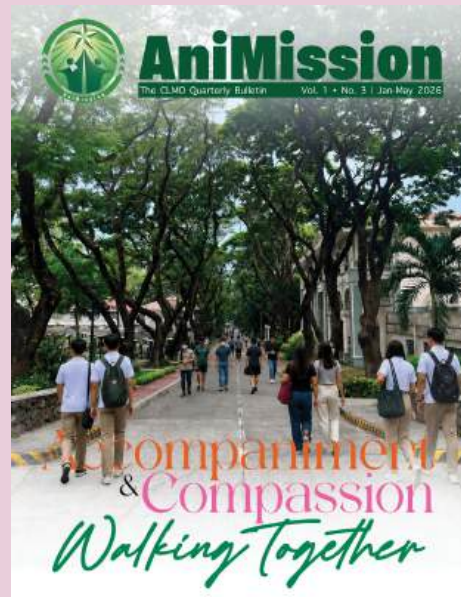
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Accompaniment
& Compassion
Walking Together

AniMission

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Get to know the Chaplain: Fr. Ashpaul Castillo

Fr. Ashpaul Castillo was born on June 15, 1991, in Kawit.

Before entering the seminary, Fr. Ash earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and worked professionally as a Software Engineer. His attraction to the priesthood began during his high school years through the inspiration of their former parish priest, Fr. Romeo Ner. For many years, he prayerfully discerned the possibility of entering seminary formation before finally deciding in 2012 to pursue a vocation to the priesthood.

He entered Our Lady of the Pillar Seminary and studied Philosophy at San Carlos Seminary in Makati City. After several years, he continued his priestly formation at Tahanan ng Mabuting Pastol in Tagaytay City while pursuing his theological studies at Divine Word Seminary. He completed his theological studies in June 2022, earning a Master of Arts in Theology major in Pastoral Ministry.

Fr. Ash received the Sacred Order of the Diaconate, the first degree of Holy Orders, on October 24, 2022, at Imus Cathedral. On March 13, 2023, he was ordained to the Sacred Order of Presbyters at St. Mary Magdalene Parish through the laying on of hands and consecratory prayer of Bishop Reynaldo G. Evangelista.

Prior to his appointment as University Chaplain of De La Salle University–Dasmariñas, he served as Assisting Deacon and, after his priestly ordination, as Parochial Vicar of the Diocesan Shrine and Parish of Our Lady of the Pillar – Imus Cathedral from October 2022 to May 2024. He was subsequently appointed Spiritual Director of Our Lady of the Pillar Seminary, the diocesan college seminary of Imus, where he accompanies and forms young seminarians aspiring to the priesthood.

On March 2, 2026, he was appointed by the bishop as Chaplain of De La Salle University–Dasmariñas following the appointment of Fr. Ren as Parish Priest of St. Paul Parish.

Alongside his responsibilities as University Chaplain, Fr. Ash continues to serve as Spiritual Director of Our Lady of the Pillar Seminary. He also serves as Priest Animator of the Diocese of Imus Ministry on Liturgy, a position he has held since February 2024.



EASTER REFLECTION • FR. ASHPAUL CASTILLO • UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN

Emptiness & JOY

Among all Christian celebrations, Easter stands at the center. It is even more significant than Christmas. While Christmas commemorates the birth of Christ, Easter proclaims the very foundation of Christian faith: the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

And yet, unlike Christmas, Easter often arrives quietly.

Christmas fills public spaces with music, lights, decorations, and traditions. Familiar songs play endlessly in malls and streets. Homes are adorned with ornaments, gatherings become festive, and cultural practices give the season a tangible warmth. Easter, by comparison, seems understated. There are no grand public celebrations of the Resurrection that match the cultural visibility of Christmas. The joy of Easter is less external, less commercial, and perhaps less immediately felt.

But within the life of the Church, Easter is the greatest feast of all. Every other Christian celebration draws meaning from this event. Without the Resurrection, the rest would lose their ultimate significance. Easter is the reason Christian hope exists.

What makes Easter unique is the kind of joy it offers. It is not merely emotional excitement or outward festivity. The joy of Easter is quieter, deeper, and filled with mystery. It is a subtle kind of joy. It is the kind of truth that is not always immediately understood, yet is profoundly recognized by the heart.

This is reflected in the Gospel narrative of the empty tomb. Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the beloved disciple all witnessed the same reality: the tomb was empty. Yet not all responded in the same way. According to the Gospel, it was the beloved disciple who immediately believed. What distinguished him was not greater evidence, but greater love.

The Resurrection reveals that love changes the way one sees. Those who love deeply often perceive truths that others miss. In human relationships, affection sharpens awareness. A parent recognizes a child's unspoken burden through a simple gesture. Close friends detect sadness behind silence. Spouses understand emotions without words. Love heightens sensitivity; it allows people to perceive realities beyond what is plainly visible.

The beloved disciple did not need further proof because love had already prepared him to recognize the meaning behind the empty tomb.

In this sense, Easter challenges the common assumption that "love is blind." The Resurrection suggests the opposite: love enables deeper vision. Through love, the empty tomb becomes more than absence. It becomes revelation.

Ordinarily, people resist emptiness. Emptiness is associated with loss, lack, or failure. An empty wallet creates anxiety. An empty refrigerator signals need. Empty spaces are often quickly filled because absence makes people uncomfortable.

At first, the empty tomb also appeared troubling. For Mary Magdalene and the others,

it was confusing and painful. Yet eventually the empty tomb became a source of hope rather than despair. What seemed like absence became the very sign of new life.

There are many moments in life when emptiness unexpectedly carries meaning. Parents feel satisfaction when a meal prepared with care leaves an empty plate because it means their children were nourished. An empty lunchbox at the end of the day becomes a quiet sign of provision and care. An empty seat on crowded public transportation can bring relief and gratitude. Easter teaches us that what is full is not always good, and what is empty is not always bad.

Sometimes what appears to be loss becomes the beginning of transformation. Sometimes absence opens the possibility for hope. The empty tomb stands precisely as that paradox: a place marked by death that ultimately reveals victory over death.

This is why Saint Paul could confidently ask: "O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?" (1 Cor. 15:55) In the Resurrection of Christ, death itself is confronted and overcome not by force, but by love.

Ultimately, Easter is the story of a love powerful enough to empty the tomb.

Its message is not simply that suffering and death exist, but that they do not have the final word. The Resurrection invites people to see life differently — to recognize that even moments of emptiness, loss, and uncertainty may carry within them the possibility of grace, renewal, and joy.

The joy of Easter, then, is not loud or superficial. It is the quiet confidence that love remains stronger than death, and that hope can emerge even from what once seemed empty.



conBROsations:

Finding the Connection in our Lasallian DNA

CHRISTIAN PHILIP RENONO | MMA 34 | RDLS ASPIRANT

On April 28, 2026, the Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC Reception Hall became a place for honest conversations, deep reflection, and real fellowship. “conBROsations: A Lasallian Vocation Encounter” brought together young Lasallians, De La Salle Brothers, National Lasallian Vocations Team (NLVT), Office of the University Chaplain, and the Chief Lasallian Mission Office (CLMO) to explore the theme *Fratres in Unum*: Faith in Communion, Mission in Action in a way everyone could relate to. With the hashtag #OurLasallianDNA: All is Connected, the morning felt nothing like a typical seminar. It was a comfortable discussion where students could ask real questions, share their struggles, and see how God connects our stories to something bigger.

ZOOMING IN ON THE STRANDS OF DNA

The best thing about conBROsations was how it reflected the same feelings of doubt, hope, and fellowship among everyone there. In

the reflection forms collected during the event, participants shared honestly about their own Lasallian DNA:

1. Communion (*Fratres in Unum*): Who are you called to journey with?

The responses showed that everyone wants a real connection. For the creative people, communion meant finding “like-minded people... places where I am understood and no one can understand me but fellow thinkers.” Others felt called to journey with their families, mothers, close friends, and blockmates. Many realized that even if everyone’s paths are different, our united values keep us together.

2. Mission: Who am I called to serve, especially the poor and vulnerable?

The participants focused on reaching out to those who are often overlooked or in need. One shared a heartfelt desire to support “blockmates who feel that they are unseen or unheard, being

with them so they know that their presence also matters.” Others shared that seeing beggars and children on the street makes them feel sad and inspires a strong desire to help the vulnerable and show them they can succeed. For some, serving others is not a big project. It feels natural. As one student said about their family always sending goods to the poor: “It doesn’t come to me as anything special. It just feels natural to do it, just like breathing the air around us.” The compassion reached beyond people. Some participants had a strong calling to care for animals and pets as well.

3. Faith: How is God inviting me daily, in real situations, not abstract plans?

Instead of talking about abstract ideas, participants shared how they experience God in their busy, everyday lives. Many felt that God speaks to unplanned opportunities, so we ought to choose kindness. Even if it’s patience to handle overloaded responsibilities when they don’t want to, helping an elderly to cross the street, or to lend an umbrella in an unexpected rainfall, faith is found in doing the right thing just because it is right, no matter how you experience your day. For some, God feels abstract and hard to

see, making them unsure of where His guidance is really leading them. Yet, there is a shared hint of trust. They recognize that He is still inviting them to focus on Him and stay obedient through daily intuition, the places they are required to go, and events like this encounter. Ultimately, most agreed that faith is about actualizing dreams of service through daily human interactions, using everyday situations to practice love for God and others.

Our Lasallian Mission Accompaniment

Through the conBROsations event, organized by the Chief Lasallian Mission Office, showed that answering a calling does not happen instantly but it will grow and be fostered through small moments, such as being patient during stressful times, fulfilling life’s responsibilities, and being open to learning.

Even though it is through the wisdom of De La Salle Brothers, the encouragement of mentors, or simply lending your umbrella to someone caught in the rain, it all reconnects to #OurLasallianDNA. When we open our hearts to others, we often discover that God is sending them to journey alongside us as well.



RESIDENCIA
DE LA SALLE



BE A BROTHER.
A DE LA SALLE
BROTHER.



LASALLIAN
MISSION OFFICE





APRIL 18, 20206 | CHAI'ENNE NICOLLETTE T. LUMUNSAD | LASALLIAN YOUTH ACCOMPANIMENT GROUP (LAYAG)

I once drifted unknowingly in life. Even since I began journeying as a Lasallian over ten years ago in junior high school, I came to form a silent understanding of not knowing what I truly wanted in life. Yet ten years later, now in my 3rd year of college, I found myself in a direction I would never have thought to go down on many years ago. Who knew how gracious and clever our God could be for someone as underserving as me. The De La Salle Philippines' National Lasallian Volunteers Camp (NLVC) of 2026 was the last thing I would ever expect in my journey as a young student leader of my university. I never thought I could be chosen to represent my university in such an important event. I never thought I would be granted an experience so beautiful.

I came very shy and awkward. Meeting new people already from the first ride out of the university. I expected nothing. There were no large expectations for me to have distinguished and everything felt clouded in mystery. But living there and getting to know everyone started to grow on me even before I'd notice. We had a routine of beautiful morning prayers, valuable sessions, snack and meal breaks, activities lined with purpose and lesson. I had a roommate who I did not know until then but I appreciated them to the end of our time there. Our nights before 10 PM were spent preparing for this one outreach activity in Bacoar, Cavite with the Hope in Me Club. I had worked in the kitchen, cried onions, spoke delightfully with one of the owners of the house, and watched at how happy the children are as they were taught and as they played.

There were moments in the retreat house that I could never forget. Like how I felt my heart burst with so much emotion and unexplainable lightness only from listening to the conviction of love of a long-time volunteer's story. Or how it did when I realized just how special that place was for me. I remember our team-building and how it forged my bonds into something tighter. I remember crying in mass and finding counsel with a dear sister and my adviser on the trip. If I were to describe my time in that retreat house in general, it would nowhere be near the words I could tell you. All of my self had been dismantled and refurnished, what I was before was no longer who I was today. The best that I could explain from my time there would be that once in a lifetime feeling of an utter understanding of serenity and adrenaline. Like when you'd stand amongst a blanket of life where the breeze whistled across the sunlight. Your body is encased by the chill but the light would lay its hand on your heart and you'd feel warm inside. Brimming with a thousand layers of grace.

The NLVC was more than a program that taught you how beautiful De La Salle's faith, zeal for service and communion or how it feels to hold and carry the future in tight purpose. It revealed the stars that held me and my comrades under one sky. Where together we would Live our passion, Engage in our peripheries, Aspire for change, and Dare to love (LEAD) in a world that we were taught was connected and therefore should be cared with great purpose. The program made me understand what it means to be a Lasallian and how great it is to be capable of carrying out what the founder had done so long ago. Where even when I'm not the light, I can be the spark.

from Daily Grinds to Global Strides

THE DLSU-D NIGHT COLLEGE JOURNEY

MARA U. SALIBAY, PHD

The stories of DLSU-D Night College students this quarter reflect journeys shaped not only by academic perseverance, but also by opportunities and shared experiences.

For the first time, the Night College became part of the Lasallian Mission Festival through ONE PULSE. The DLSU-D Night College Unity Night Run and Wellness Walk brought together students, faculty members, administrators, and partners in a celebration that went beyond physical wellness. The activity became a symbol of solidarity and encouragement, reminding students that they are part of the larger Lasallian community.

Another meaningful milestone came from eight Business Operations Management students who participated in the International Business and Trade Tour in Macau through the student exchange initiative of the Business Management Department in partnership with the University of Saint Joseph. For many, seeing Night College scholars participate in an international academic tour may come as a surprise. International travel is often viewed as an opportunity reserved for those with financial privilege, and joining such a program may seem far from the realities many of these students once faced.

However, their participation tells a deeper story—one shaped by sacrifice and the support of people who believed in their potential. One student, for instance, had her expenses fully financed by her employer, who strongly believed in and supported her educational journey. Another student reflected that the opportunity became a rare break from a demanding routine of work and study and is a once in a lifetime experience.

Many Night College students entered the university while carrying financial burdens, work responsibilities, and personal struggles, yet remained determined to complete their education. Their journey from overcoming daily challenges to becoming part of an international learning experience reflects not only personal determination, but also the transformative impact of the Night College program in their lives.

Together, these two milestones meaningfully embodied the spirit of accompaniment and compassion—one through students and educators literally walking side by side in solidarity during ONE PULSE, and the other through the figurative journey of students overcoming challenges and reaching opportunities once thought unattainable. These experiences affirm that the Night College journey is more than earning a degree; it is a continuing story of transformation made possible by a community that continues to walk together with its learners every step of the way.



Faith in Action:

FORMING LASALLIANS FOR GOD AND SERVICE

JONNA MAY M. BERCI

At the Basic Education Division of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, faith is more than a tradition—it is a living force that shapes hearts, inspires purpose, and transforms students into compassionate Lasallians committed to serving others. Embedded in the rhythm of daily campus life, students begin each day with prayer and reflection, grounding themselves in gratitude and in the presence of God. Their spiritual journey is deepened through meaningful Holy Mass celebrations, confession services, Marian devotions, and sacred liturgical observances during Advent and Lent, where moments of silence and worship become opportunities for renewal and deeper connection with their faith.

Through Christian Living Education at Junior High School and Christian Values for Senior High School, students are challenged not only to understand Catholic teachings but to embody them—living with integrity, kindness, and a profound sense of social responsibility. Transformative experiences such as retreats and recollections provide sacred spaces for self-discovery, healing, and spiritual awakening, allowing students to encounter faith in deeply personal ways. Beyond the classroom and chapel, faith finds its fullest expression through community outreach missions, donation drives, and volunteer programs for different communities, where students learn that true discipleship is found in service and solidarity.

Guided by the Lasallian Mission Office and strengthened by a supportive Lasallian community, students are empowered to live out the values of Faith, Zeal for Service, and Communion in Mission—not simply as ideals, but as a lifelong calling. At Basic Education Division, faith is not just taught; it is lived, shared, and carried forward, shaping young individuals who are prepared to lead with courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to make a difference in the world.



THE 2026 Journey of Hope

AT BAHAY PAG-ASA

ROSARIO N. PAREJA

The Lenten season at Bahay Pag-asa is more than a series of scheduled events; it is a purposeful journey designed to guide residents toward spiritual renewal and a deeper understanding of sacrifice. By integrating modern liturgical practices with traditional observances, the 2026 program aims to foster a sense of community, discipline, and “Pag-asa”, the enduring hope that defines the mission of the center.

The spiritual journey is anchored by two distinct moments of recollection, providing the residents with the silence necessary to hear the promptings of faith. The journey began on February 15 with a Recollection Day facilitated by Sister Sonia, which served as a spiritual “reset” to prepare hearts for the forty days of Lent. This was followed by a vital second session on March 23, led by Mrs. Bercy. Her reflection focused specifically on the profound mystery of Holy Week, inviting the residents to slow down and walk mindfully through the narrative of sacrifice and love.

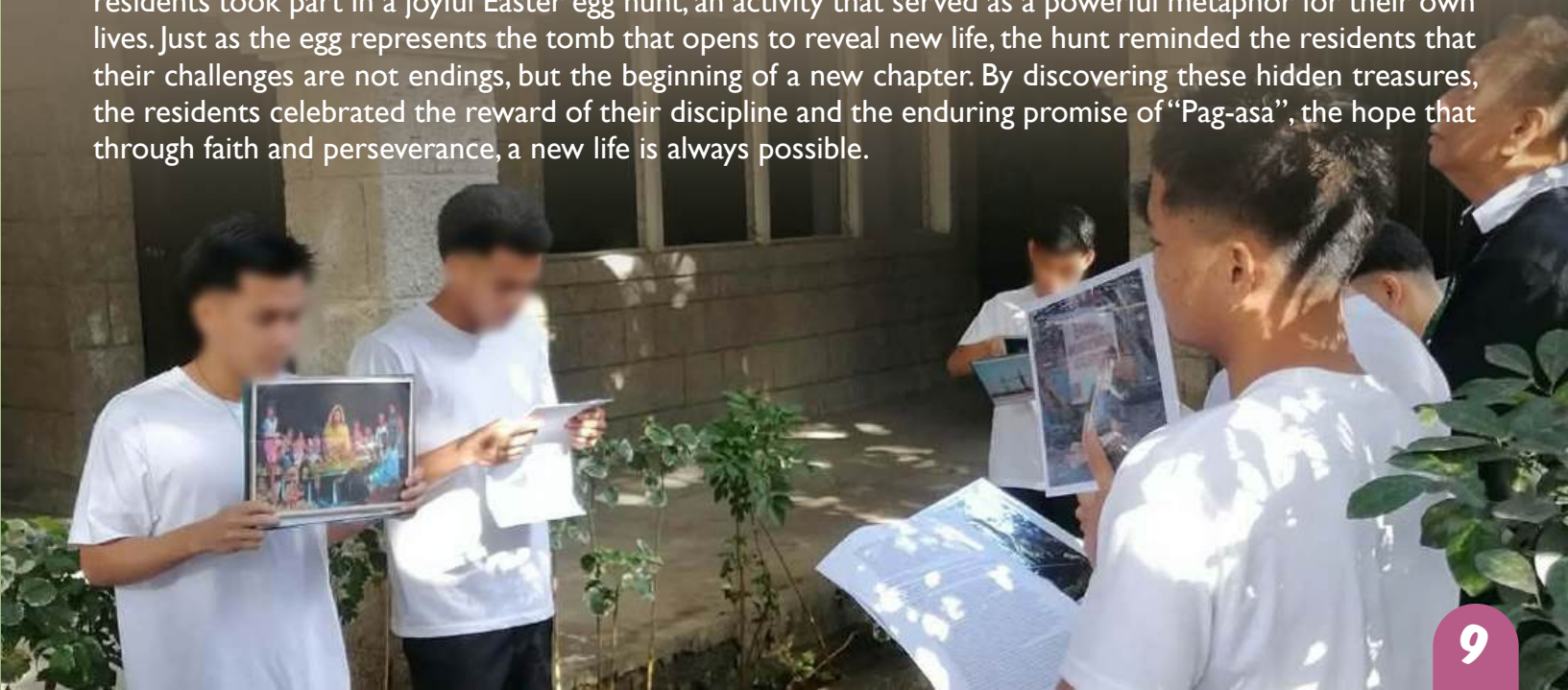
By quieting the outside world, residents are encouraged to move beyond simply reciting prayers. This mindful approach hopefully will allow them to fully experience the journey from the weight of the cross to the transformative joy of new life, recognizing that their own life stories are also moving toward a new life.

Following these initial reflections, the residents of Bahay Pagasa engaged in the Stations of the Cross once a week. The choice to use a modern Tagalog version, paired with contemporary liturgical images, bridges the gap between ancient scripture and the modern-day struggles faced by the people today. As Sister Sonia and Brother Egbertus mentor the different dormitories in leading these prayers, the residents transition from passive observers to active spiritual leaders.

Seeing the Passion of Christ through contemporary imagery invites residents to see their own hardships not as isolated struggles, but as part of a larger, sacred narrative of endurance and eventual triumph.

True penance is often expressed through the hands and the heart. This year, the residents practice fasting and abstinence through simplified daily meals and meatless Fridays. The reduction of rice portions serves as a physical reminder of the Lenten call to empty oneself to make room for grace.

The 2026 Lenten journey at Bahay Pag-asa reached its peak as the residents gathered to participate in the Easter Sunday liturgy via online mass. This digital connection to the wider faith community transformed their period of sacrifice into a shared, vibrant celebration of the Resurrection. Following the service, the residents took part in a joyful Easter egg hunt, an activity that served as a powerful metaphor for their own lives. Just as the egg represents the tomb that opens to reveal new life, the hunt reminded the residents that their challenges are not endings, but the beginning of a new chapter. By discovering these hidden treasures, the residents celebrated the reward of their discipline and the enduring promise of “Pag-asa”, the hope that through faith and perseverance, a new life is always possible.



SEALTIEL P. LAGO

The camp offered various activities that helped participants realize that they are important, not isolated, but interconnected, and that they are accompanied in the mission entrusted to them by God, especially in their path as young Lasallians.

More than an activity, the camp became a living symbol of unity. It showed that LaYAG is not simply a group of volunteers, but a community bound together by shared experiences, responsibilities, and faith. As they move forward, the members carry with them the assurance that their journey is always interconnected—with God, with one another, and with the wider Lasallian family. It affirms that in faith, service, and communion, no one truly walks alone.



