

Set Life on Fire: "Canossian Volunteers Philippines Batch 32's Transformative Journey of Compassion and Service"

By Shyn Lagasca

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." - St. Mother Teresa



Batch 32 Send off Mass

Manila - In a world where vulnerability often goes unnoticed, the Canossian Volunteers Philippines (CVP) Batch 32 stepped forward, inspired by the love St. Magdalene of Canossa held for the marginalized. Hailing from different corners of the Philippines, including Calamba, Sta. Rosa and San Pablo Laguna, Cavite, Taguig, Mindoro and General Santos City, these compassionate individuals embarked on a month-long mission that would leave an indelible mark

on both themselves and the communities they touched. Their journey began with heartfelt anticipation, guided by the values of compassion, service, and empathy for others. The volunteers were sent to two mission areas: Sitio Baloc in San Pablo and Calamba Laguna. As the volunteers' one-month journey unfolded, they faced challenges and triumphs that molded them into a close-knit family. The process was not without its difficulties, but they persevered, supported by the newfound camaraderie among their fellow volunteers and the affectionate relationships they built with their foster families, especially in Sitio Baloc.



Sitio Baloc, San Pablo, Laguna



Galvaville, Calamba, Laguna



On a warm July 15th evening at Vanessa Farm Resort, San Pablo, the volunteers gathered for a heartwarming get-together, an occasion to celebrate the success of their volunteer service. The room filled with laughter and tears as they exchanged stories, recounting the unforgettable experiences they had encountered as CVP volunteers. For most of them, this was their first time engaging in such dedicated volunteer work, and they confessed that it hadn't always been easy, yet the joys they experienced and the connections they made it all worthwhile.



Evaluation and celebration – Mesinas Vanessa Farm Resort, San Pablo, Laguna



"I never expected to find a family away from home," said Adrienne, a volunteer from San Pablo. "The people in Sitio Baloc embraced us as their own, and we formed bonds that will forever hold a special place in my heart."

Throughout their stay, the volunteers remained committed to accomplishing their goals. They actively engaged in catechesis, teaching children essential prayers such as the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, and Glory Be in both Tagalog and English. Additionally, they imparted the significance of praying the Holy Rosary, ensuring that the seeds of faith were sown in the young hearts they touched. Beyond catechesis, the volunteers conducted blood pressure checks in Sitio Baloc. This valuable service provided essential health insights to the residents and highlighted the volunteers' holistic approach to caring for the community's well-being. Another highlight of their journey was the art workshop for children, masterfully headed and facilitated by award-winning artists. This creative outlet allowed the children to express themselves, fostering their talents and providing a sense of accomplishment and joy that would be cherished for years to come.



As the days passed, the volunteers' dedication bore fruit, and the culmination of their efforts was evident in the smiles and grateful hearts of the children who participated in the culminating activity on that memorable day of July 15th. The event served as a testament to the impact of their collective commitment and the love they poured into their volunteer work. The one-month journey of Canossian Volunteers Philippines Batch 32 was indeed an incredible testament to the power of volunteerism and the profound impact it can have on both volunteers and the communities they serve. United by their shared purpose, these individuals exemplified the true spirit of St. Magdalene of Canossa's love for vulnerable people, leaving behind a trail of hope, compassion, and positive change.



As they bid farewell to the communities they served, the volunteers carried with them a profound sense of fulfillment. Their month-long journey may have come to an end, but the memories and bonds forged during this life-changing experience would continue to inspire and uplift them, driving them to pursue a life of service and love for years to come.