



# G. S. Youth United

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

## Peace, Patience, and Prayer by Austin Bacong, Editor



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“Feliz Navidad!” “Chuc Mung Giang Sinh!” “Maligayang Pasko!” “Merry Christmas!”

Christmas is a holiday celebrated in almost every corner of the world. Spending time with loved ones, eating delicious food, and buying gifts for those who have impacted your life are all aspects of this precious holiday. And while its meaning today is often interpreted as “that time of year where I have to buy people gifts” or “the most expensive time of the year”, we tend to lose sight of what the true meaning of Christmas is: The birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

When you think of Jesus, what image do you most often see? The Alpha, Omega, Savior, Messiah, Father, Redeemer, He who takes away the sins of the world? He is definitely all of these beings, and more. God sent His only son to die for us, to save us from our sins. Throughout the entirety of His life, God led Jesus in preparation for His

shining moment to free us from the bond we share with death, with all things that pull us away from our path to the Lord. And to that, we owe Jesus our lives, everything that we are.

How often do we take that



for granted?

The world today is driven by stress and the snares it has on our relationship with Christ. Whether it is school, relationships, jobs, or just anything stressful in general, it is these things that tend to drive us off the right path to the Lord. The times of stress challenge our faith, and willingness to put our entire beings into the Lord’s promise of eternal life with Him in heaven. And with Christmas being another media influenced holiday, almost entirely about “the

latest fashion,” or “the greatest gift”, it is even easier to get caught up in the material issues of the world. We lose ourselves and the fight for being with Christ grows more distant as our own problems take up the space he owns in our hearts.

We need to remember that Christmas isn’t about what it’s been acclaimed to be over the evolution of history. Christmas is about our love for Christ, and the sacrifices he has made to be with us. It’s all about Him. He needs to be our number one, center of attention during the holiday season. It’s our turn to make sacrifices for Him.

The greatest gift any of us could ask for is the constant presence of the Lord in our lives.

As we light another candle of advent and the coming of Christ Jesus draws nearer and nearer, take time out of your own lives to thank

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those around you for what they've done for you. Christ's love for us comes from us being able to love ourselves and those around us. We need not fear waiting for the Lord, He is here in our hearts. We wait for Him to lead us back to God, to guide

us in lives of love and peace, and help grow in our faith. While it may seem as if the world around you will not cease to slow down, find peace within yourself, have patience for the coming of the Lord, and pray. The strength to wait for Him comes from renewed consciousness of how we must to present ourselves for

the Lord: with our focus of attention on the center of Christmas, Jesus Christ. He is the only gift undeniable to everyone around the world.

I pray each and everyone one of you have a blessed holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

## Walks for Homeless Youth by Veronica Murray, Writer

The youth at Good Shepherd have certainly gotten into the Christmas spirit with helping many different charities! During the past few months there have been two walks to help the homeless. Currently, there are still over 2,000 homeless youth under the age of 18 in San Diego County and funding has been severely reduced. It is estimated that 1 in 50 children in the U.S. are homeless and there are no programs for the over 4,000 homeless young adults, ages 18 to 24, in San Diego County.



The first walk was for Photocharity to help open a new young adult



A Good Shepherd Youth Won a \$5,000 Prize at the Photochar-

homeless shelter. Over the past nine years, Photocharity has raised over \$1.5 million to save homeless youth. And 24 of our youth showed up

on October 23rd to run a 5k through Liberty Station at 9am to help out. And even though there was some rain throughout the morning it didn't put a damper on our spirits! We even got to be on TV! KUSI showed up and Jake Portugal, an alumnus from our youth program, who introduced Pat to this run and charity, was interviewed and talked about Good Shepherd on the air! The run was very fun and we even met some people that Photocharity helped and now have working jobs and homes. Overall it was a great experience and a good chance to meet some new youth!



The second run that occurred was the Father Joe's Thanksgiving Day run. On, you guessed it, Thanksgiv-

ing morning! What better way to kick off Thanksgiving then to get up and burn some



Father Joe's Thanksgiving Day Run/Walk 2010

calories! The run started at 8 am and was a 5K that ran through Balboa Park. Father Joe's fundraised money to pay for food at St. Vincent de Paul Village homeless shelter. They have served over 1.7 million meals this year alone! And with over 10,000 people participating in the run this year they can now serve even more! Along with the run itself they also sold a lot of pies that they made themselves at St. Vincent de Paul's! It was a very successful run and fundraiser that was also a fun and healthy way to start Thanksgiving Day!



## All Saints' and All Souls' Day by Franz Manalansan, Writer

How many people celebrate Halloween, either by dressing up or by handing out candy? Well, the Church has days for honoring those who have died that happen around the same time. On November 1, All Saints' Day, or shortened to All Saints is for all saints, known and unknown, as well as those who have died and reached heaven. The next day is All Souls' Day, November 2, which is for the souls who have died, and not yet reached heaven. All Souls is for the people still here to pray for them. Not surprisingly, these two days for honoring

those who have left are not celebrated as widely as Halloween.

Although All Saints and All Souls is not a holy day of obligation, or a major part of my life, my parents talked about it every year, when Halloween time came, they would talk about how All Saints and All Souls were more of a regular aspect of their lives in the Philippines. While growing up, on the feast days, my mom's family would visit their relatives' graves in the cemetery. They would bring food, flowers, candles, and see the other families there. They would spend the

day, just being with their missed loved ones. Even though we haven't really done that in my life, I feel that is what these two holy days are about. Not about wallowing in the grief of missing someone, but about being able to reminisce and remember why you loved that person so much, and moving past grieving to acceptance.



## Welcome to Hollywood: Walk of Faith by Monique Breillatt, Writer



Youth Receiving Letters from Families

On November 12, 2010, the youth in Pre-Confirmation went on a retreat at the Palomar Christian Conference Center. Retreat is where they get to leave everything behind and

grow deeper in their faith with God. They spent two days up in the mountains where they left reality and dedicated their days to God. They also had

time to bond with each other. Retreat



Sing-Along Ice Breakers

was full of singing, listening to talks, and most importantly worshipping God. While on retreat, many junior facilitators gave talks about their relationship with God, family, friendship, etc. After each talk, they had time to reflect on it. Many of them were able to relate to all of the talks. The youth were also able to go to reconciliation while on retreat. The students were able to confess their sins and start anew with a clean soul.

Throughout the retreat, they were able to open up and share the lives with one another. However, as time got closer to November 14 the youth had a life changing experience and it was time to

go back to reality.

Most of them did not want to leave retreat because they had an amazing experience. As retreat ended, the youth opened up their hearts to God and their faith grew too. Going back to reality also means going back to our old habits, I hope that everyone has changed for the good and has kept God in the hearts as they go back to their daily lives. Always remember that God is good!



Teaching "I Like Bananas" Song



Lifehouse Skit

# St. Vincent De Paul



Still need to do your Justice & Service project? Volunteer at ***St. Vincent De Paul's Soup Kitchen!*** There are only 4 days left that you can sign up for:

- January 26
- February 17
- March 25
- April 9



Visit: <http://goodshepherd youth.net/vincent.htm> for more information.



**Save  
the  
Date**



# LA Youth Day

March 17, 2011

Youth Day is designed for all high school students throughout the Archdiocese. Students are invited to come together to participate in morning and afternoon workshops, culminating in a youth rally.

Visit <http://www.recongress.org/yd/youthday.htm> for more info!



Jesse Manibusan—LA Youth Day 2010



Jacob and Matthew  
LA Youth Day 2009



Skit at LA Youth Day 2009

## I Gotta Feeling That Tonight's Gonna Be a Good Night by Angela Bolanos, Writer

Good Shepherd Youth Ministry has done it once again! Just what have we done you ask? The annual All Night Party of course! On November 19, Good Shepherd's multipurpose Hall was the place to be. Anyone who was looking for a good time with friends was kicking it there! And why wouldn't you go? There was great music, tons of games, bowling, and an endless supply of food.

Games, games, games, and even more games! From the start of the party, there was no time to be bored. There were video games galore for everyone, and card and board games were also an option. Icebreakers were one of the highlights of the night, that way kids would be more comfortable with each other. There was Musical Chairs - Body Parts Edition, which earned quite a few hilarious moments. Sit

Down Volleyball was also a hit, and the boys once again were victorious with a narrow win over the girls!

After all the running around, everyone snuggled with a blanket to watch the greatest movie ever: Toy Story 3! Kids had the option of watching the movie, or going off into a side room to play more games. After the movie ended, PAW (Praise and Worship) performed a skit that was meant to show the youth that spending time with friends at a fun event, like All Night Party, was much better than doing more negative activities. Many people enjoyed it, and thought that it was very easy to relate with.

Pat Clasby, the coordinator of the event, made quick talk of the skit put on, and then at 12:30 AM, everyone bundled up and moseyed on down to the bowling alley. "Only with Good

Shepherd could you go bowling at 1 in the morning," laughed Billy Raines, a youth in Confirmation class, "It's a giant sleepover with your closest friends! What more could you ask for?" At 3 AM, everyone made their way back to the hall where the movie The Blind Side was put on for anyone still wide awake, but most people fell asleep, pooped out from bowling and having so much fun all night.

At 5:30 sharp, Pat woke everyone up, and the whole hall was cleaned and put back in tip top shape! Hopefully, when everyone went home they slept for a long, *long* time. All Night Party was definitely a night to never forget!



## Talent Show by May Sermonia, Writer

Upon the creation of every boy and girl, God blesses them with a gift in which they can worship him. These gifts can come in many shapes and forms, such as, singing, dancing, and even playing an instrument. Good Shepherd, on December 4, 2010, held a talent show, going along with this past Camp Emmaus theme, "Living Peace, Proclaiming Justice", to use these gifts and fundraise nets for places like Africa. Some of the money earned from admission into the talent show was donated to be used to buy nets in places like Africa where malaria is commonly found. In buying these nets, we can help prevent hundreds of people from getting sick.

The air was fresh with excitement and cheer as the talent show

opened with an act from a little girl whose name escapes me. From her flamingo pink feather atop her head, to her pinned back skirt, she wooed the crowd with her advanced hip shaking skills. The crowd continued to be excited and on the edge of their seats as acts from other people in our community who went out to share their God given gift to the audience.

As if the show couldn't have gotten more awesome, we had a couple acts from our very own core team members! The original guitar tracks from Mark Celones, heart-felt poetry from our Vice President, Nina Sousa, a crowd grabbing dance performance from Chris Banaga and his gang and many more! A friend of mine, Jamie Lee comments, "The

talent show was AMAZING! It had a lot of variety and the acts were very good and everyone was really supportive!" I agreed entirely. The show ended with a bang with the performance of the Akiyama Brothers and Gabe Macedo, unfortunately bringing a close to this awesome night.

All in all, it was a wonderful night. All the acts were absolutely crazy and spectacular, and everyone fed off of everyone's hype and energy. It was a great feeling knowing that you could enjoy yourself by sharing God's blessed gift with others, proclaiming his love and helping save lives in places around the world.



## Pre-Con and Confirmation Orientations

by Alyssa Little, Writer

Pre-Con and Confirmation are about to start and everyone is excited.

The Pre-Con orientation I heard was pretty fun especially seeing all the new youth. During the pre-con orientation Pat Clasby talked about what they were going to be doing throughout the year. Older youth as well were talking about their experience in pre-con and they also talked about their faith more, especially of how pre-con helped them get more into their faith. After that they were singing songs and watched a skit that was very inspiring to them. Now I

am sure that all the youth joining pre-con are now ready to start.

The Confirmation orientation was filled with excitement, everyone was really happy to see their old friends from Pre-Con. During Confirmation orientation we listened to Pat talk about what we need to do this year in order to be confirmed. After that we listened to junior facilitators talk about their experience of being confirmed and more. Just like the Pre-Con orientation, we sang songs and watched a skit that was pretty fun to watch!

The orientations of both Pre-Con and Confirmation were both very inspiring to all the youth at this church. I

hope they get more into their faith throughout this year. I hope the youth really take these classes seriously and grow more into their faith and have fun while doing it!



Pre-Con Group at Retreat



Pre-Con Group at Retreat

## An Interview with Norma Ortuño

by Briana Escalante

Introducing Norma Ortuño, a wise leader in the Spanish community, who has helped many church members grow within and in faith for many years. She is a wonderful woman living God's word on a day to day basis. Many women would be proud to do all that she does for others.

**Q:** How long have you been a part of the parish?

**A:** Seventeen years.

**Q:** What is your position in the Spanish community?

**A:** I am the coordinator for Spanish catechism.

**Q:** What exactly do you do?

**A:** I do all the registration work and the paper work for all the sacraments. I also train the catechists. I help plan retreats and workshops for the Spanish community.

**Q:** What made you decide to volunteer your time in the parish?

**A:** After my son finished his communion I decided I wanted to help out, so I helped out with the kindergarten class. Four years later the person in charge of the Spanish community could no longer do it and encouraged me to. It's a way to give other people the knowledge that has been given to me.

**Q:** Do you just focus on the Spanish community?

**A:** No, I also work along with Pat Clasby, the youth coordinator and work together for the youth of our community. I also translate the bulletin from English to Spanish. I do not just help the Spanish community my mission is to help all.

**Q:** Describe your journey of faith and where you are today?

**A:** I attend Mass every Sunday which helps me learn more about God, grow together with Him. The love and power He gives me helps me to help others learn and understand His word and His love as well.

**Q:** Is there anything you would like to say?

**A:** I am really happy to be a part of the parish in a way it really helps me grow both in faith and in my relationship with God. I am learning so much from children and those that I work around with. It's a great honor to do so.

Whoever said that one person couldn't make a difference?





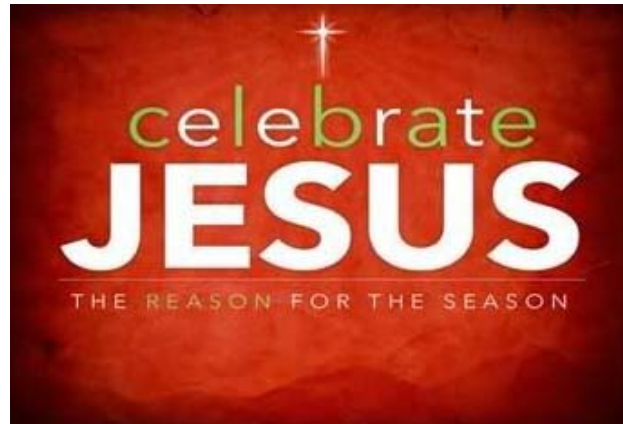
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## Events

For information regarding upcoming events, go to [www.goodshepherd youth.net/events.htm](http://www.goodshepherd youth.net/events.htm)

Please note that all off-site activities need a signed permission slip.



### A Holly Jolly Season by Stephanie Bucao, Writer

'Tis the season everyone and yup you guessed it, it's Christmas time! It is always such a magnificent time of year with all the love and joy spread around by everybody! Despite our always hectic Black Friday, we also have everyone running around from multiple shopping centers persistently searching for the perfect Christmas gifts for all their loved ones during this season as well. Although, for us Catholics, the holidays are also a time for all of us to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

So why do we, as Catholics, truly consider Christmas to be such an important holiday? Well...it was late in the day and Mary and Joseph are desperately searching for a place for Mary to bear her child. Unfortunately, they find no luck with the local townspeople to find decent shelter. However, a local is kind enough to allow them to stay in a manger where

Mary gives birth to Jesus Christ. Upon hearing the birth of their Savior from an angel, a few shepherds go and visit Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Soon after, three wise men appeared after noticing a star



that signified the birth of the King of Jews. These three men offered three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Occurring on the 25th of December, which is Christmas Day, all these events lead to our celebration of Jesus' birth.

Also, during this time of year, our church holds a variety of different

kinds of masses such as the sequence of Filipino masses called, Simbang Gabi, and other

culturally based masses. Additionally, there are the Children's Masses on Christmas Eve and of course, the midnight mass on Christmas Day.

With the days rolling by, no wonder everybody is so excited for the season! Again the Christmas season is not always about the amount or quality of gifts that everyone receives, it is all about enjoying one another's company and appreciating the memories that came along with this past year. Again, for us Catholics, we also set aside the time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and appreciate all He has done for us. So with this I would love to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

