



KFI-M.E. Ministry, Inc.

Newsletter

May 2017

SPRING EDITION

Volume 1, Issue 2

*Watch out for
the launching of
our new website!*

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Upcoming Events

June 24:
BNA Annual Pilgrimage
Basilica of the Immaculate
Conception
Washington D.C.

July 14-16:
Luke 18 Weekend
St. Valentine Church
Bloomfield, NJ

July 29-30:
Life in the Spirit Seminar
St. Nicholas Parish
Jersey City, NJ

August 4-6
Antioch Weekend
Venue TBA



President's Corner

The History of KFI-M.E. Ministry, Inc. (In a Nutshell)

Greetings of peace and love to all of you, beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most joyous and glorious Easter season!

For this spring issue of our e-newsletter, we are given the task of relating the history of the KFI-M.E. Ministry, Inc. In order to accomplish this in a most concise manner, we intend to simply highlight the main characters and events from its inception.

The KFI-M.E. Ministry, Inc. is the current official name of this Catholic organization composed of modern day disciples of Jesus Christ, whose main purpose is the evangelization of young and adult individuals, as well as married couples and families, with the hope of developing intentional disciples of Jesus Christ in the 20th century and beyond. This organization started its evangelization ministry as the Jesus and Mary Catholic Renewal Ministry in 1987 when its founder, Conrado L. Felix, fondly called Brother Conrad, together with his wife, Sister Bing, started holding Life in the Spirit Seminars in various parish communities in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. They were assisted by their children, aged 11-18 years, who formed the Jesus and Mary Music Ministry. They helped establish Filipino-American prayer groups and small Catholic communities not only in the Archdioceses of these three states, but spreading as far out as Ohio, North Carolina, Florida, and California.

In 1996, the first of many Marriage Encounter Weekends (ME Weekends) was held for the purpose of strengthening Catholic marriages by placing God in the center of their married and family lives. These ME Weekends have been held in New Jersey, New York, Philadelphia, and Florida.

Soon after the development of ME Weekends, a centralized youth ministry was formed which became known as the Young Life Ministry which held weekend retreats known as the Luke Weekend (for ages 11-15yrs), Antioch Weekend (for ages 16-21), and Barnabas Weekend (for single young adults over 21 years).

As the organization continued to flourish and grow in membership, it had to be registered as a judicial entity and became known as the Koinonia Foundation, Inc. (KFI). *Koinonia* is a Greek word which means communion or sharing in common, a characteristic of the Church.

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And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

-Matthew 13: 3-9



President's Corner, continued

Following the death of one of the Trustees of KFI and in keeping with the articles of incorporation which required the dissolution of the corporation in this event, KFI was dissolved in 2006. The articles of incorporation were amended and ratified and the organization has become known as KFI Family Ministry, Inc. and eventually as KFI-M.E. Ministry, Inc., since it has retained the original vision of KFI, while highlighting the marriage encounter ministry, among its other ministries.

At the present time, the KFI-M.E. Ministry, Inc. is duly registered as a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization in the State of New York, actively and regularly offering Marriage Encounter Weekends, Life in the Spirit Seminars, Youth Retreats, Growth Seminars and Retreats, and hoping to revive Family Encounter Weekends which have temporarily become inactive. Meanwhile, the Joshua Evangelization Group (JEG), which is an independent group of encountered couples and individuals, is actively raising funds to build a center to house most, if not all, of the evangelization activities of KFI-M.E. Ministry, Inc. So, there you are – the history of this Spirit-filled organization in a nutshell.

May the hope of new life brought about by the Paschal Mystery, as well as the gifts of the Holy Spirit, be our source of strength and inspiration for many generations yet to come.

- Bro. Lito & Sis. Cecile Cervantes, President, KFI-M.E. Ministry, Inc.

Marriage Encounter Ministry

The first KFI Marriage Encounter Weekend (MEW) was held in September 1996 with 17 couples attending and comprising Class No.1. Since the inception of the MEW, a total of 36 ME classes has been produced in the NY/NJ area with approximately 500 members, a number that will continue to grow as the MEW is now again held twice a year. In addition, KFI-M.E. Ministry Inc. also conducts MEWs in Florida and Pennsylvania.

By the year 2001, the late Bro. Conrad and Sis. Bing Felix (founders of the KFI organization), together with the Board of Trustees, decided to form a body that will oversee the operation of the MEW. Thus, the Marriage Encounter Board (MEB) was created. The MEB is tasked to prepare, organize and coordinate the activities of the ME Ministry. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, seven couples are chosen to be members of the board, each with varying duties and responsibilities. The MEB members serve for two terms with two years per term. This body, which at present comprises the **MEB VIII**, is presided by the **Head Servant Couple** currently held by Bro. Lester and Sis. Rowena Buenaobra-Ancheta. The other members of the MEB are the **Assistant Head Servant Couple** (Bro. Ed and Sis. Winnie Margallo), **Secretary** (Bro. Louie and Sis. Bullet Onglengco), **Treasurer** (Bro. Rolly and Sis. Eli Gregorio), **Auditor** (Bro. Sonny and Sis. Margie Sico), **Director of Auxies** (Bro. Nick and Sis. Cecille Arana) and the **P.R.O.** (Bro. Nonoy and Sis. Norie Peralta). The MEB members are also involved in other capacities within the KFI community where they are needed.

The MEB members will come and go but the work in the vineyard of the Lord will continue to reach out and invite other couples that they may also experience the wonderful journey of a husband-wife relationship which is God-centered.

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*This eNewsletter is
brought to you by the:*

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Nonoy & Norie Peralta

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Marriage Encounter Ministry continued

The members of the MEB VIII would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all those who participated in the recently concluded MEW held last May 5, 6 & 7, 2017 at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, Long Island, New York. It was the first time in many years that the MEW was held in a retreat place again. This beautiful holy ground made God's presence truly felt by all participants throughout the weekend which included 16 candidate couples and more than 50 auxiliaries. The staging of the MEW would not have been successful without the support of the members of the KFI community acting as one tightly knit family, each member contributing their time, effort, and resources where they are needed.

For more information on the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, please visit the following website: <http://www.icseminary.edu/>.



This coming November 17-19, 2017, the work in the vineyard continues with MEW 37. As always, every encountered couple is privileged to pitch in and help in the MEW. The members of the ME Board VIII, along with the sponsoring class (Class # 35), will be planning and preparing for the upcoming MEW soon and the KFI community will again be requested to invite prospective candidates. We will be praying for the prospective candidates to accept the Lord's invitation to attend the MEW. Once again, with the generous support of the KFI community, we know that this MEW will be another success.

We thank you and we trust that God's love shall reign in your hearts forever.

*- Bro. Nonoy & Sis. Norie Peralta and Bro. Sonny & Sis. Margie Sico
KFI-M.E. Board VIII*

Youth Ministry (Luke 18 & Antioch)

Happy Easter to all!

In accordance with the season of rebirth and renewal, this year in particular has been a year of transition for the youth ministry— new leaders, new directors, and new board members alike.

The Youth Board was launched in December of 2014, at Brother Conrad's request, to act as a source of guidance and support for all youth ministry activities. It started with 8 couples and 3 singles, and we meet once a month to prepare for our retreats, Luke 18 and Antioch, as well as for our annual pilgrimage to Birhen ng Antipolo in Washington D.C.



Our biggest project to date has been sending pilgrims to represent our community in Krakow, Poland in World Youth Day 2016. With a lot of prayers, perseverance, and preparation, we were able to send 12 youth and 3 parent pilgrims to meet and pray with Pope Francis and roughly 3 million others from around the world. We express our deepest gratitude to all those who helped us make this happen with their prayers and generosity, and hope to send even more to Panama in January 2019!

This year is a big year for our ministry. In addition to welcoming our new board members, our directors for both Luke 18 and Antioch (Reni dela Merced and Melissa Usis) have chosen their replacements to guide the youth as leaders on their own faith journey. The new directors for Luke 18 are Earyn Calvis, Ged Dagot and Emily Noblesala. The new directors for Antioch are Justin Balancio and Gabriela Hilario. Their enthusiasm and dedication to the youth and their ability to influence others through their own personal growth is a testament to the very purpose of Luke 18 and Antioch— creating leaders through a personal relationship with God. We are so excited to see what they will do in this next chapter and ask that you support them and keep them in your prayers.

Also, it is our hope to bring Barnabas back to our ministry for singles ages 22 and up. As we plan to meet with potential candidates in the Fall, we ask for your continued prayers, that the renewal of Barnabas will come together in God's time.

During this past Jubilee of Mercy, we ask for God's grace and intercession in everything that we do for our young ones, and that we may embrace the growth and changes taking place in our ministry with love, patience and perseverance.

- Melissa Usis, for the Youth Ministry

(Bro. Caloy & Sis. Len Javier, Head Servants, Youth Ministry, Youth Board I)

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.' "

Matthew 13:31-32



Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) Ministry

The LSS ministry is still coming together in our main goal of having the ministry members do a self reflection and for us to take steps, individually and as a team to grow in our spirituality.

The ministry just had a very successful retreat, *Our Journey To Emmaus*, last March 25, 2017 at the Shrine of St. Joseph in Stirling, NJ. It was attended by more than 75 members of our community. This is the first in a series of retreats we are planning.

We are also very busy preparing for an unprecedented number of Life in the Spirit Seminars in at least 15 years. We just finished one last April, another in two weeks and a lineup of six more in the months after. Along with these we are in the process of helping build two new prayer groups.

We have also started a training program to teach members on how to do workshops, including a workshop for speakers.

Our profound gratitude to the LSS ministry for their cooperation, commitment and hard work.

- Bro. James & Sis. Maquy Sadhoo, Head Servants, LSS Ministry



Joshua Evangelization Group, Inc. (JEG)

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JEG is the product of the desire of the KFI community to have a center that will provide the venue for the various activities of the community.

As we look forward into the future of JEG, it is important to know how it came about and evolved into a reality through the years.

During a lull in the activities of the Marriage Encounter Weekend on November 24, 2002, a group of eight (8) encountered couples, i.e. couples who had completed a Marriage Encounter Weekend and at that time were volunteers or auxiliaries for the different activities of the weekend, decided to meet and this became the pilot meeting of this drive for a 'dream center'. At this meeting everyone had the same desire to establish a group with the sole purpose of raising funds to build a center in the future. It was also agreed that all of those present at this meeting will be considered members of this proposed organization.

The second meeting was held on December 7, 2002 at the Javier residence. It is at this meeting that the organization was named "Joshua", inspired by the biblical story in the book of Joshua which narrated the way Israel took possession of the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua, the successor of Moses.

Four years went by and on February 11, 2006, a Valentine party was held as the initial attempt at fund raising for Joshua. The event was blessed with a minimal income which was added to the funds of the group, known among us as the "Joshua Fund". All meetings and associations of the group have been done discreetly in order not to affect the evangelization activities of KFI-M.E. Ministry, Inc. Finally, on December 7, 2014 the Joshua group decided to reveal its existence to Brother Conrad and Sister Bing during his hospitalization at the Raritan Bay Hospital in Perth Amboy, NJ. This was a moving experience because Brother Conrad was already ill at that time and he never suspected the existence of a special group of dedicated brothers and sisters who were working discreetly to make his dream center come true.

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JEG continued

He shared that he was already becoming discouraged because it seemed that no one else in the community shared the common vision or desire to have our own place for our headquarters. He then said that this revelation was the missing piece that he so hoped and prayed for all this time. It seemed that Brother Conrad, right at that very moment, was once again elated, inspired and reinvigorated to carry on with his dream of the Center.

JEG was finally introduced to the KFI community on September 19, 2015 through a formal gathering at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Newark, New Jersey. It was both a happy and sad occasion – for while it ushered the realization of Brother Conrad’s dream, it was also the day when Brother Conrad passed away. His passing did not stop the holding of the event as it was his wish that it should happen.

INCORPORATION: Succeeding meetings have resulted in a few more developments:

- a) In January of 2015, the Joshua group discerned and chose to be called the “Joshua Evangelization Group” or JEG, in short.
- b) On February 9, 2015, JEG was incorporated in the State of NY as a “not- for- profit” entity. Therefore, its official name is now “JOSHUA EVANGELIZATION GROUP, Inc.
- c) In 2015, JEG became a 501 (c)3 entity and was soon approved for a “sales tax exemption” status by the State of NJ.

With these developments, JEG is now officially and legally capable to raise funds, solicit, collect and process funds for use towards our plan to build a facility as our Corporate offices and headquarters for our activities. This Building will both be a place for JEG’s administrative functions and a place for works of mercy towards the youth, the aged and the sick.

Eventually, we envision a place that can accommodate and hold evangelization activities including Life in the Spirit Seminars, Luke 18, Antioch, Barnabas, MEW and Family Encounter Weekend Retreats. It seems like a dream, but with the community's help and God’s inspiration, we are committed to realize this dream and give our beneficiaries a chance for a better life and, much more importantly, a life grounded in the love of our God.

As of this writing, JEG has a membership of 22 couples and 3 single individuals. This initiative may seem overwhelming but we trust that if it is God’s will it will bear much fruit.

- Bro. Caloy Javier, President, JEG, Inc.



***JEG working for the love of GOD, saving one soul at a time.
No limits...No boundaries....***



Birhen ng Antipolo Pilgrimage

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the dedication of the Oratory of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage (*Birhen ng Antipolo* or BNA for short). The National Annual Pilgrimage will be celebrated on June 24, 2017 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. For the past twenty years, devotees of BNA in the United States, Canada, and the Philippines, as well as other Catholic ethnic groups in the US, have attended this religious festivity. Birhen ng Antipolo U.S.A., Inc. (BNA USA, Inc.), a non-profit organization, is the ministry that sponsors and coordinates the National Annual Pilgrimage, in coordination with the different religious groups in the United States. Every year, the ministry invites a Filipino Bishop or Cardinal to give the homily and celebrate the Liturgy. This year, we are privileged to have as our homilist and principal celebrant His Excellency Archbishop Bernardito C. Auza, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations.

The day's celebration includes a Novena prayer at 10:00 AM, followed by the sacrament of reconciliation, recitation of the Holy Rosary led by young adults, Serenata and procession of various Marian images, and the Mass. The festivity ends with a procession to the BNA Oratory immediately following the final blessing.

How did this popular annual pilgrimage to the capital city come about and how is the KFI community involved? In October 24, 1997, the same year the Oratory was officially inaugurated and dedicated, the BNA USA, Inc. was also officially formed. It has since been headed by Eduardo D. Caparas as first President and Chairman. Presently, it has His Eminence Donald Cardinal W. Wuerl (Archdiocese of Washington D.C.) as Honorary Chairman of the Board, Antonio Cardinal Luis Tagle (Archdiocese of Manila) and Archbishop William Edward Lori (Archdiocese of Baltimore, MD) as Episcopal Moderators and Ex-Officio Members of the Board, and Rev. Msgr. Godfrey Mosley as the Spiritual Advisor. Our very own Brother Conrad Felix was appointed as the Special Liaison & Area Coordinator for East Coast since the formation of the BNA USA, Inc. until his death in 2015. In 2016, the BNA USA, Inc. Board of Directors appointed Brother Charlie Abalos to take the place of Bro. Conrad Felix.



The KFI community plays a big part in the entire pilgrimage event. Not only does it encourage and bring a lot of devotees to the Basilica by chartered bus, but it also has three permanent choir groups that sing at the Serenata event of the pilgrimage. Furthermore, every year KFI is asked to assign its members to participate in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist such as Scripture reading, gift offering, and other parts of the Mass. KFI also owns a big statue of the Birhen ng Antipolo that is maintained and cared for by the Calvis family. This same statue has been brought to the pilgrimage event every year to be part of the procession of the Marian images during the Serenata. KFI is the evangelizing arm of BNA USA, Inc.

Our goal every year is to reach out to as many Filipino-American Catholics and invite them to join the pilgrimage.

- Bro. Charlie and Sis. Connie Abalos
BNA Special Liaison & Area Coordinator – East Coast

Note: Bro. Charlie & Sis. Connie Abalos joined the KFI community 1995. They belong to the KFI M.E. class #2 and Family Encounter class # 2. They served as members of KFI M.E. Board-I & ME Board-II, then moved on to be the 1st President of the KFI-M.E. Ministry, Inc. While being involved in different ministries of the KFI-M.E., Inc., they are also serving as Vice President of JEG, Inc.