

COERR NEWSLETTER

July - September 2013

"Everything God has created is good, and no food is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving (1 Timothy 4:4)"

Dear All Readers,

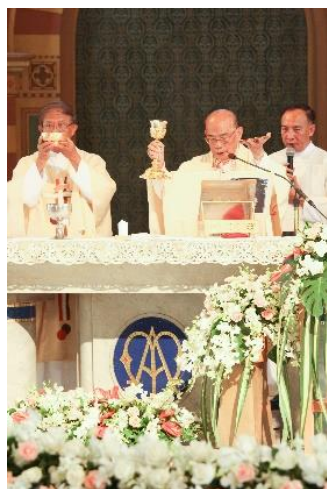
Though the cold season has arrived and the northern part of Thailand is getting chill, other provinces are still affected by floods. These unusual incidents are caused by human being whose behavior have degraded God's creation, despite the fact that the Church have taught us to live with nature in harmony, based on the catechism of the Church and the Blessed Pope John Paul II guiding us about environment:

1. Considering the world's environment as a home for mankind, to be maintained in the best possible condition and to restore and preservation the natural resources and environment for our future generations.
2. Nature should not be violated and humiliated or polluted.
3. The preservation of the natural habitats of the different species of animals and of other forms of life to 'human ecology and the value of an environment which remains a hospitable home for man, where mankind is destined to live.
4. Promoting a deeper understanding of the obligation to work for greater justice and equity in the way people are enabled to share in the resources of God's creation.
5. The Pope had already called for "a livelier sense of responsibility regarding the environment.
6. Every species is linked, directly or indirectly, with a multitude of others in an ecosystem. As a result, biodiversity is Vital for the environmental Balance of the entire Planet. For example, forests are living place of many creatures, source of water, accommodation of human beings as living places and for growing their races. Therefore, it is a duty and responsibility of everybody to preserve and restore the fertility of forestry again.

Following these guidance, let us cooperate with the Church, and also tell our brothers and sisters too, to preserve and restore our environment, starting from us, to, so that all, not only us but our next generations, should benefit.

See you in the next issue.

COERR's "Thanksgiving Day"



COERR have organized the annual Thanksgiving Day Ceremony as to: Give thanks for the blessing of COERR's mission; Celebrate the feast day of His Eminence Michael Cardinal Michai Kitbunchu, the first President of COERR; Remember Rev. Fr. John Babtist Bunlert Tharachatr, COERR's first Executive Director; Express our appreciation to donors and, last but not least, Have an annual gathering of COERR's Church-based Volunteer Groups.

This year's event, was organized on Saturday, October 12, 2013, began with the opening speech by Bishop Joseph Pibul Visitnondachai, COERR's President, to welcome all COERR's church-based volunteer groups and staff from COERR's 7 Offices, namely COERR Mae Hong Son, COERR Mae Sariang, COERR Mae Sod, COERR Kancharaburi, COERR Bangkok, COERR Aranyaprathet and COERR BRC.



Various stage performances were presented by Youth of the Holy Infant Jesus of Ban Paeng in Singburi Province, COERR's Volunteers and Youth Volunteer Groups. This year's Master of ceremonies was Rev. Fr. Joseph Anucha Chaopraeknoi, COERR's Volunteer Groups' Spiritual Director. At 10.30 A.M., the Cardinal presided over the Mass. Bishop Joseph Pibul Visitnondachai, Rev. Fr. Joseph Chamnien Kitcharoen, Rev. Fr. John Murray, Rev.



Fr. John Witchukorn Gatepab, Rev. John Baptist Pipat Rungruangkanokkul, Rev. Fr. Joseph Anucha Chaowpraeknoi and. Rev. Fr. John Baptist Rangsiphon Plienphan concelebrated.

Then a variety of food stall lunch was offered by several COERR volunteer groups to celebrate this occasion.

International Day of Peace in the Refugee Camps



The International Day of Peace was firstly observed on September 21, 1982, after passing the UN resolution in 1981. Refugees in the border camps deem this as a symbol of hope for peaceful future. COERR and the refugee peace committee, therefore, promote the understanding and awareness raising, about peace and relationship strengthening among refugees in all nine border camps, through the following meaningful ceremonies:

Speeches made by religious leaders from the Christianity, Buddhism, Islamism and Traditional Faith, government and non-government organizations, to welcome and convince people about peace building in mind; candle lighting to celebrate the world peace; cultural activities for peace issue such as drawing and singing contest among schoolchildren; and peace song singing and traditional performances presented by various ethnic refugee groups.

Student Volunteer Spirit Boosted through VSED Program



The Volunteer for Social and Environment Development Program (VSED) has been established since 2000 by Bishop Joseph Pibul Visitnondachai, President of Catholic Committee for Social Pastoral and Brother Louis Chanel, Director of Assumption College.

This year, meetings were held on August 28 and October 11, by both founders to restore the VSED Program, focusing on guidelines in promoting Student Volunteer Spirit among children and youth in schools in the same direction; criteria in selecting proper and outstanding candidate students for VSED Certificates to be granted on the coming VSED Day Event on January 28, 2014 at Phraharuthai Donmuang School.

Participants in such meetings were Executives and teachers from 12 schools in the program this year, i.e. Assumption College (Bangrak), Saint Gabriel's College, Sacred Heart Convent School, Phraharuthai Donmuang School, *Phraharuthai nonthaburi school*, Phatthanawet Sacred Heart School, La Salle School, Santa

Cruz Convent School, [Kularb Wittaya School](#), Joseph Krungthep School, Vasudevi School and Sarasas Witaed Suksa School.

A New House for Uncle Sudjai



The Program for Building a house for the poorest and most vulnerable in each Church community was initiated by Bishop Joseph Pibul Visitnondachai in which all 26 COERR's Church-based volunteer groups were advised to adopt a role model in rendering assistance to the poor in their community as to honor the Infant Jesus on Christmas occasion.



Under this program, Mr. Sudjai Atjira, 81 year-old, who lives alone and earns his living from collecting and selling recycled garbage was selected. Then a house was built for him in the compound of the Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Samutprakarn Province by COERR Volunteers of the Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Peter Sampran

Church, the Holy Father Church (Tippawan) and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Thanks for Schools' Donations



During the recent Buddhist's Lent, COERR have invited schools to launch a campaign for donation of rice and money in order to help the poor and vulnerable in the remote areas. There are 41 schools participating in this project and launching campaign among students.



The products donated by these schools have been collected and then transferred to the poor beneficiaries in COERR's program and also to other Catholic Organizations'.

COERR take this opportunity to express appreciation to schools, teachers, children and parents for their contribution and wish our donors God's blessing for a Happy and Healthy Life forever.