

TRINITY NEWS

WEEK 48.
November 26, 2023
Proper 29



LET THERE BE LIGHT!

Background: In December 2021, several parishes in the Puerto Princesa, Palawan area were devastated by Super Typhoon Odette. During 2022, in consonance with its “*Living Stones*” theme, the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Philippines (EDCP) funded, and -- *under the direction of Engineer Rebecca Balang (aka “Tita Bex”)* -- the **Barangay Babuyan** community rapidly built **San Vicente Ferrer Episcopal Church**; which was dedicated by Bishop Rex in October 2022.

Last March, the EDCP convened a convention in Puerto Princesa – *to which Fr. Bert and several other Holy Trinity members were delegates*. One convention activity was a visit to Barangay Babuyan for a rapid review & needs assessment for possible further diocesan support.

We saw a dire need for **electrical power** – *both for the church, and surrounding community* – as the **first priority** to address. [Provision had been made for lighting the church, but electricity was still unavailable.] Given access to electricity, various collateral community livelihood and educational activities could be undertaken. Another major need was for **regrading the barangay road** which had been washed out during the typhoon, leaving a portion with a sharp half-meter drop, limiting access by vehicles to the church area. A highly desirable ‘want’ on the wish-list was a **basket-ball court** for the community’s youth.

Subsequently, the CHT Vestry proposed the Diocese undertake **Project ‘Ilaw’** to address the foregoing; **which they agreed to sponsor – and will match any funding support from CHT**.

Earlier this month, we received sufficient donations to initiate the electrical power component of the project with solar power for the San Vicente Ferrer Church – **which was just installed this week!** While the lights are now functioning, the formal inauguration will be blessed by the bishop on 10 December!

However, while we rejoice in this ‘delightful’ achievement, it is but the first step in a major outreach initiative by CHT to help those less fortunate in the Philippine Episcopal rural community; and we request your continuing support in this endeavor to fulfill the remainder of Project Ilaw’s commitment.

COMING UP:

- November 30, Wedding, 2:30 pm.
- Dec.1-16, THEA (sleepwear) Inventory Sale
- December 3, FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT
- December 3, Wedding, 2:30 pm.
- December 7, Wedding, 3:00 pm.
- December 10, Norway Advent Service, 6:00 pm
- December 17, Rose Sunday. JOINT Service 8:30 am.
- December 17, Sunday School Christmas Pageant; Christmas Concert, 9:45 am. Potluck lunch follows. *[Sign-up on the board]*
- December 24, Regular morning service.
- December 24, Midnight mass, 10:00 p.m.
- December 25, Christmas morning service, 10:00 a.m.
- December 31, Regular morning service.
- January 1, Feast of the Holy Name, 10:00 a.m.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK:

Andrew the Apostle, Patron Saint of Scotland, 30 November. Though Andrew is named among the apostles in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, it is in John's gospel that most is learned about him. Andrew was a Galilean fisherman, mending his nets, when Jesus called him to follow him, which he promptly did. He then seems to have remained with Jesus until the end. He was there at the feeding of the five thousand and then later, when some Greeks in Jerusalem wanted to see Jesus, Philip brought them to Andrew who told Jesus of their desire. Tradition has him travelling on several missionary journeys and eventually being martyred by being crucified on an X-shaped cross. He became the patron saint of Scotland because of a legend that his relics had been brought there in the eighth century.

Charles de Foucauld, Hermit in the Sahara, 1 December. Charles Eugène de Foucauld was born in 1858 and led a dissipated life as a young officer in the cavalry. In 1883, he went on an expedition to Morocco where he developed a passion for north Africa and its ways. Four years later, he returned to the Catholic faith of his infancy and, after a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, became a Trappist monk in 1890. Desiring an even more austere life, he left in 1897 and became a servant to the Poor Clares in Jerusalem and Nazareth. He was eventually ordained priest in 1901 and went to live as a hermit in Algeria, ending up at Tamanrasset. He became fluent in the local language and his care and concern for the local tribes-people made him accepted and then much loved, though he never sought converts. He composed Rules for brothers and for sisters, though none ever actually joined him. He was assassinated on this day in 1916, a victim of local religious wars. The Little Sisters of the Sacred Heart were founded in 1933, inspired by his rule for sisters. His writings also inspired René Voillaume and others to adopt a life based on his rule, eventually becoming The Little Brothers of Jesus in 1945.

When we go to pray, God has already come to the meeting place.

[Charles Henry Brent, Adventure for God, 1920]