

## **LCCC @83: FORWARDING IN SYNODALITY, GRATEFUL TO GOD'S GREATNESS**

*"One's ending is a new chapter of another."*

As thanksgiving and gratification for the 83 years of evangelization and quality Christian education, the junior high school LCCian community gathered together in the second day of a Triduum mass, morning of February 9 at the LCC grounds.

In continuation of the 83<sup>rd</sup> foundation celebration of the beloved institution, Fr. Ariel Lara OSA presided the Eucharistic mass with the theme, "Moving Forward in Synodality with Gratefulness of God's Greatness".

One of the students, Dea Ellice Dionisio from 8-Diligence said in an interview, "After 2 years, we finally had the chance to celebrate thanksgiving mass face-to-face and it is more special because LCC is celebrating its foundation day. That's our way to communicate with God here in our LCCC."

This had finally occurred after the resumption of face-to-face class in November. This year, 2023, was yet another year for other students, but for Lance, senior student, who was celebrating his last thanksgiving mass, he felt sentimental and emotional while attending the mass to commemorate the inaugurating anniversary of the institution which stood the tests of time.

As the community prepared, Lance, one with the crowd composed of LCCC's pupils and students, administrators, educators, and non-teaching personnel, united in practicing some Eucharistic songs with the choir as Mr. Panganiban gave a few reminders heretofore the celebration as a sign of respect to the prayer.

At exactly 8:30, the mass officially commenced with melodious melody from the Junior High School Glee Club members with their moderator, Mr. Maron Quiambao. Some chosen junior high school students read and delivered the readings, and psalm while the entire LCCian flock remained silent which increased the solemnity of the mass.

Amara Venice Pascual, 9th grader and member of Glee Club stated, "I'm thankful to be a part of this year's Glee Club, especially as a part of the choir because it is my way to show my talent to everyone else while serving God." Another choir constituent, Tyduz Tapia, added that he connects with the Creator through learning every part of the songs from the heart.

Lance sat and listened to the Gospel of Mark as it was being read. In it, a gentile lady who is a Greek asks Jesus for aid in having the demon expelled from her daughter's body, and Jesus assists her despite the fact that she is not a Christian. Lance was bewildered once again, but he was aware that what Jesus did served as the day's lesson to all those who heard.

Fr. Ariel began his sermon by making a connection to the celebration's subject, noting that Jesus Christ is the foundation of synodality and that everyone deserves to know his love,

regardless of their color, gender, nationality, or other qualities. Underlining the need of including everyone in the Lord's redemptive purpose.

The homilist shared significant points about the Gospel of Mark in which we can apply and realize in life it is about testing the strength and perseverance of faith and Christ always being there during restlessness.

"When Father emphasized that everything you see comes from God, it was the portion of the sermon that really affected me because often I believe people forget all the nice things we see are just pure luck that doesn't come from God," Jhanelle Valenzuela, grade 9 student, said she was impressed by the sermon.

After the homily, Lance and the other students offered their love offerings inside of an envelope which signifies as "giving their love and gratitude for the many things that they have received in LCC-C." Mr. Panganiban said. "This is an opportunity for them to give even just a little amount to express how grateful they are to God for the blessing that they have received," He explained.

Jairus Suarez, a part of the Knights of the Altar club, expressed that "Being a servant of Christ, it makes my faith in God even stronger as well my love for the people around me especially to those people whom I care about. It grows extremely by time. That is something that I learned while serving God, to be loving. In serving Him, I got to know Him even more," Suarez spoke while passionately worshiping God.

Mrs. Grace Pedregosa, the assistant principal of JHS, presented the closing remarks as the group celebration was about to come to an end. In a joyful conclusion to the mass, Lance and the other students joined the JHS dance club in performing the song "I Will Sing Forever."

As a new chapter awaits, Lance experienced an emotional rollercoaster while taking a look at the festive students. The fact that this would be his final Foundation day celebration as an LCClan truly overwhelmed him. He will always treasure the memories and experiences he made being a student at this institution.

Acknowledgement:

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