



ONE VOICE

The official publication of the Church People-Workers Solidarity (CWS)

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Editorial **The Legacy of Gat Andres Bonifacio and the Continuing Quest of the Workers for Human Dignity**



This year, Filipinos celebrate Gat Andres Bonifacio's 150th birth anniversary. Andres Bonifacio is a treasure to Filipinos. He was a genuine patriot who led the fight against colonization and for the Filipino people's right to self-determination. It is but fitting to devote time and resources to the commemoration of the working-class hero and the great plebeian's birth anniversary. Likewise, it is important to use this time to underscore the need to revisit history in order to define its links to the present. Through a correct reading of Bonifacio and the movement he led, it would not be difficult at all to connect prevailing conditions to those of the past. Contemporary Philippine society continues to suffer from foreign domination. Until now, we are still witnessing an unbroken thread of treachery by the *ilustrados* of society.

Bonifacio and the Katipunan's unique legacy is a love of country that translated to unstintingly devoting one's life to the



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struggle for national liberation. Being a man of the masses, he would have fought against all forms of oppression and exploitation. Bonifacio stood for genuine change – for genuine freedom for the country and the upliftment of the poor. However, the ideals for which Bonifacio fought and died are yet to be achieved by the Filipino workers and people, as their realization are being hindered by the continued foreign and elite domination over the Filipino people. The local

economy is still controlled by foreign powers together with their local counterparts. They exploit the country's cheap labor and plunder the Philippines' mineral resources and other raw materials to the detriment of the people. Indeed, one hundred fifty years after Gat Andres was born, we are still to be born as a truly independent nation.

The best way to pay tribute to Bonifacio is the Filipino working-class to carry on with his struggle for national independence and genuine democracy. Bonifacio would have detested the present impoverished state of the country's workers and farmers, and decry the continuing concentration of lands in the hands of a few. He would definitely be angered by the Aquino government's pro-foreign and pro-elite policies. By refusing to heed the call of the workers for a P125 across-the-board wage hike nationwide and Aquino's implementation of a significant wage cut via the Two-Tiered Wage System, it is obvious that this government is pressing down Bonifacio's fellow workers to boost the profits of big capitalists.



Photo by RONALYN OLEA (Bulatlat.com)

While millions of Filipinos experience joblessness, homelessness and hunger, billions of public funds are being misappropriated by corrupt government officials through the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF). However, the PDAF represents only a miniscule portion of a larger mother lode – the presidential pork barrel which could reach up to P1.3 trillion of the proposed national budget for 2014. Most of these funds are under lax control procedures, thus giving a wide opening for various forms of corruption and political maneuvering. At the height of this scandalous situation, the toiling masses are demanding transparency, accountability, and justice. In the light of the recent “pork barrel” scam,

the words of Pope Francis in his encyclical *Lumen Fidei* becomes all the more imperative: “we need truth, because without these we cannot stand firm, we cannot move forward.”

For nearly a hundred years Catholic social teaching has supported the rights of workers to organize. Papal encyclicals has upheld the right to form trade unions as necessary and desirable to defend the vital interests of workers and to lead in the struggle for social justice. It is the God-given dignity of workers that gives them the right to make that choice freely, without interference or intimidation from management. The pastoral letter Economic Justice for All, reaffirms the Church's support of the rights of workers to form unions and to work for fairness in the workplace. “No one may deny the right to organize without attacking human dignity itself.”

On November 30, Filipinos commemorate Andres Bonifacio's 150th birth anniversary. This celebration would be even more meaningful if church people recommit themselves to the solidarity *of* workers and solidarity *with* workers. As Blessed John Paul II reminds us, we must be firmly committed to this cause for the Church considers it her mission, her service, a proof of her fidelity to Christ. Church people should take seriously Pope Francis' challenge: “I want to see the church get closer to the people. I want to get rid of clericalism, the mundane, this closing ourselves off within ourselves, in our parishes, schools or structures.” In this way, the social message of the Gospel will not be considered as a theory, but above all else a basis and motivation for action. ★

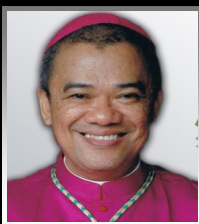
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Editorial Board

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One Voice is published quarterly by the Church People Workers Solidarity (CWS).



Bishop Gerardo A. Alminaza, D.D.

CHRIST AND THE WORKERS

Labor, Jobs, and Pork Barrel

On May 1, 2013, International Labor Day and Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, Pope Francis extolled the dignity of labor. In the same breath, he condemned selfish profiteering or business without social justice, which dehumanizes labor.

Pope Francis said, "Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person. Work, to use an image, *anoints* us with dignity, fills us with dignity, makes us like God, who has worked and still works, who always acts (cf. Jn 5:17); it gives you the ability to maintain ourselves, our family, to contribute to the growth of our nation."

Pope Francis continued, "I think of the difficulties which, in various countries, today afflicts the world of work and businesses; I think of how many, and not just young people, are unemployed, many times due to a purely economic conception of society, which seeks selfish profit, beyond the parameters of social justice."

Economic Growth vs. Job Creation

Today, in the Philippines, we lament the fact that amid claims of "fast economic growth", for the first time since 1997, there is negative growth in job creation, as reported by Ibon.

11.9 million Filipino workers are unemployed or underemployed!

Let us reflect on these words by our Holy Father Francis, "Development cannot be reduced to economic growth alone, often attained without a thought for the poor and the vulnerable."

The Second Plenary Council of the Philippines

exhorted, that the evil of inequity consists in this, "the ones who possess are relatively few and those who possess almost nothing are many." Goods and services intended for all, are poorly distributed (PCP II, 268; SRS, 28).

For the past months, the country has been beset by the pork barrel scam in which billions of pesos, under the sole discretion of a public official have been used for ghost projects facilitated by ghost NGO's.

The Good Shepherd, Jesus Himself, said that if we truly love Him, then we must feed His sheep (*John 21:17*). But as shepherds, we are called to take extra care of the most vulnerable of our sheep, "Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor? (*Job 30:25*)"

Alternative to Pork Barrel System

We ask, had the 10 billion-Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) not been stolen, how would workers have benefited from it?

For example, the agricultural workers in Cebu were up in arms when the following was discovered by the press:

The pork barrel of a congressman was used to build a simple shed in the middle of a farmland in barangay Taptap in the hinterlands of Cebu City. The shed that would have cost perhaps only about PhP50,000 was priced at over PhP600,000! Secondly, the shed was to be used as a shelter for goats. The goats were priced at PhP57,000 each. A big he-goat would only be worth about PhP5,000. A carabao would be worth about PhP30,000; many times bigger than a goat! These amounts could have been used by several agricultural workers to finance their vegetable plots and fruit trees. But, the barangay captain and his constituents were not even consulted on what the agricultural workers really needed.

Let us go to how the 10 billion could have benefited the industrial workers. The right to organize themselves into labor unions is taught by the Church and guaranteed by the United Nations' Bill of Human Rights. This right is listed alongside the right to education, and others. The government subsidizes

the education system, albeit inadequately. There should also be a similar subsidy for labor unions. Instead, there is a tacit collusion between the government and foreign companies in export processing zones to ban labor unions. Organizers are laid off as soon as the capitalist gets even just a whiff of some initial efforts to organize the workers.

Sectoral Participation

In the last analysis, the workers together with their allies in the Churches and civil society must be more pro-active. Now is the time to come together as a labor sector. From below, the workers themselves identify the projects that would create jobs and protect their rights. For example, the more than Php900 billion Presidential Pork in the 2014 National Budget can be used for propelling manufacturing which would benefit the local economy.

When these projects are approved in the General Appropriations Act (GAA), the funds for the projects are given DIRECTLY to the stakeholders, instead of being coursed through some government agency. The stakeholders themselves will manage and monitor the implementation of their projects. This is really thinking out of the box. With a firm resolve and a lot of hard work in solid organizing on the local and national levels, there is hope.

The same process will be done by the other sectors of society, such as the urban poor, farmers, the fisherfolk, senior citizens, women, children, and others. It is no longer enough just to vent our anger at the corruption linked to the present pork barrel system.

It is time to craft an alternative system from below; one that would really channel the public funds for the benefit of the common good. These alternative systems, however, will not work if the sovereign people, the real bosses, do not organize themselves well. All our efforts now could dissipate like the proverbial *ningas cogon* unless all these changes are INSTITUTIONALIZED.

Invitation to Solidarity

Pope Francis said, "I wish to extend an invitation to solidarity to everyone, and I would like to encourage those in public office to make every effort to give new impetus to employment. This means caring for the dignity of the person; but above all, I would say, do not lose hope. St. Joseph also had moments of difficulty, but he never lost faith and was able to overcome them, in the certainty that God never abandons us."

May St. Joseph the Worker continue to guide us all. ★

News Briefs

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Migrants

• **Stranded OFW Dies in Tent City**

Louie Bedaho Belista, a stranded overseas Filipino worker, 36 yrs. old, died in the tent city in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia around 11:30 p.m. due to asthma attack, according to Marlon Gatdula, chairperson of Migrante-Jeddah. He added that Belista, a nurse, was also helping treat fellow Filipinos who are sick.

He was the sixth person to die at the Tent City and among the thousands of stranded overseas Filipino workers who are seeking refuge at tent cities in Riyadh and in Jeddah in front of the Philippine embassy and consulate, respectively, due to the implementation of the Nitaqat Scheme, a labor policy that requires Saudi companies to hire Saudi nationals to comprise at least 10 percent of their total workforce.

• **Filipino migrants' rights advocates join high level talks on migration**

Filipino migrant rights advocates are joining this year's International Assembly of Migrants and Refugees, a parallel event to the United Nation's High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, to call for an end to the Global Forum on Migration and Development and bury the notion that migration will lead to genuine development.

Migrante International said that it will present the Philippine situation to the IAMR as an example of how migration did not lead to genuine development.

"Large scale migration is a symptom of underdevelopment in the sending country. The structural causes of underdevelopment driving migration and exposing migrants to vulnerable situations must be addressed." – Gary Martinez of Migrante International

(Source: All News Articles from www.bulatlat.com)

Migrant Filipinos, Where To ?

The migration of Filipinos abroad is a product of extreme poverty and joblessness in the country that is brought about by the decrepit social system perpetuated by US neocolonialism. The deepening economic crisis in the Philippines has simultaneously aggravated the migration of Filipinos abroad to gargantuan proportion. More than 2,000 migrant Filipinos leave the country each day and approximately one-third of these are composed of unskilled workers. They can be found in 182 countries worldwide.



Photo from Bulatlat.com

Filipinos are driven abroad since the government cannot provide them work. This is not surprising since the Philippine economy is backward, agrarian, and without basic industries. Hence, it cannot generate enough employment for Filipinos. Millions of workers are being thrown out of their regular jobs as foreign and domestic capitalists resort to contractualization and downsizing so as to maintain and generate more profits. Thus, Filipinos, indeed, is a rich source of cheap labor by developed countries.

Migrant Filipinos contribute a lot to the economy through their remittances. From 1990 to 1995, remittances of migrant Filipinos were registered at US\$14.543 billion. In 1999 alone, it registered a high of US\$6.9 billion. The government recognizes this contribution. In fact, they are hailed as "new economic heroes."

Migrant Filipinos are an exploited lot. The Philippine government extracts exorbitant fees from

them as requisite to their deployment abroad. Government rakes in millions daily in the processing of their papers alone. These include payments for passports, NBI and medical clearances, administrative fees, forced contributions and a litany of other expenses.

The abuses and exploitation they experience in their place of work are prevalent. These range from contract violations, rape, sexual harassment, mysterious deaths, among others. Yearly, hundreds of thousands of Filipinos are reported to have suffered various forms of abuse and exploitation in the hands of their employers. Women migrant workers in particular are most vulnerable to abuses and maltreatment. They are subjected to sexual and physical abuses, as in the case of domestic helpers, while many become victims of white slavery.

Nothing can pronounce the exploitation and abuses committed against migrant Filipinos than those



Photo from Bulatlat.com

inflicted to Flor Contemplacion and Sarah Balabagan. Their cases opened the eyes of the entire Filipino people and the international community on the hapless plight of migrant Filipinos.

The anguish and ordeal of migrant Filipinos continue. The conditions that confront them necessitate the continued organizing, education and mobilization work among their ranks in their struggle for their rights and welfare, and for genuine freedom and democracy. ★

Migrante International

A TRIBUTE TO FR. JOE

On his 40th Presbyteral Anniversary

Dear Fr. Joe Dizon,

I am very happy that in your 40th anniversary of priestly ordination, you adopted the words of Pope Francis as your theme: "How I would like a Church of the poor, for the poor."

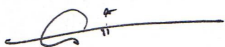
This occasion is an opportune time to articulate our dream of a renewed church. Let us call to mind the strong message of the First National Congress of the Philippine Clergy in 2004 that the renewal of the country can be possible "through a renewed Church by a renewed clergy." These renewed clergy are what the Lord meant when He said, "I will give you shepherds after my own heart" (Jer. 3:15).

Our Holy Father Pope Francis exhorted priests to "be shepherds with the smell of sheep"; to serve "the poor, prisoners, the sick, for those who are sorrowing and alone." Pope Francis further reminded us that good shepherds must be "ready to walk amidst the flock: capable of hearing the silent story of those who suffer and of sustaining the steps of those who are afraid of not making it; careful to lift up, to reassure, and to inspire hope."

In the Philippines, these are articulated in the Updated Philippine Program of Priestly Formation (UPPPF): "The priest should take the initiative in a prophetic reaching out to the poor and victims of Philippine society and in dialogue with peoples of other Churches or faiths...The priest serves and leads the community by inspiring its members to lend their gifts for the service of the community and society" (UPPPF, 14).

Indeed, we can say that in your 40 years as priest, you, Fr. Joe, have shown us how to live as a Priest of the Poor.

We join you, Fr. Joe, in celebrating 40 years of service as a priest of God and the people. We wish you many more years of relevant and fruitful service. May the fire in your belly, the burning flames of the tongues of fire in Pentecost be kept alive. May you and all of us pastors be a light of hope for the Church of the Poor.



Most Rev. Gerardo A. Alminaza, D.D.
Bishop-Elect, Diocese of San Carlos
Chairperson of CWS

**Message from the
National Council of Churches in the Philippines**

On behalf of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, I would like to convey our deep appreciation for the life, work and ministry of Fr. Jose P. Dizon, Fr. Joe to all of us.

Fr. Joe is the epitome a genuine servant in Lord's vineyard who has used his time and talent in the service of the poor, the downtrodden and the marginalized. His deep compassion for the poor and oppressed have always led his sharp mind and quick tongue to follow his heart, which beats unconditionally for his passion and love for God's people. And Fr. Joe's ministry is just that, serving the people, a clarion call that young church people and even the lay should emulate.

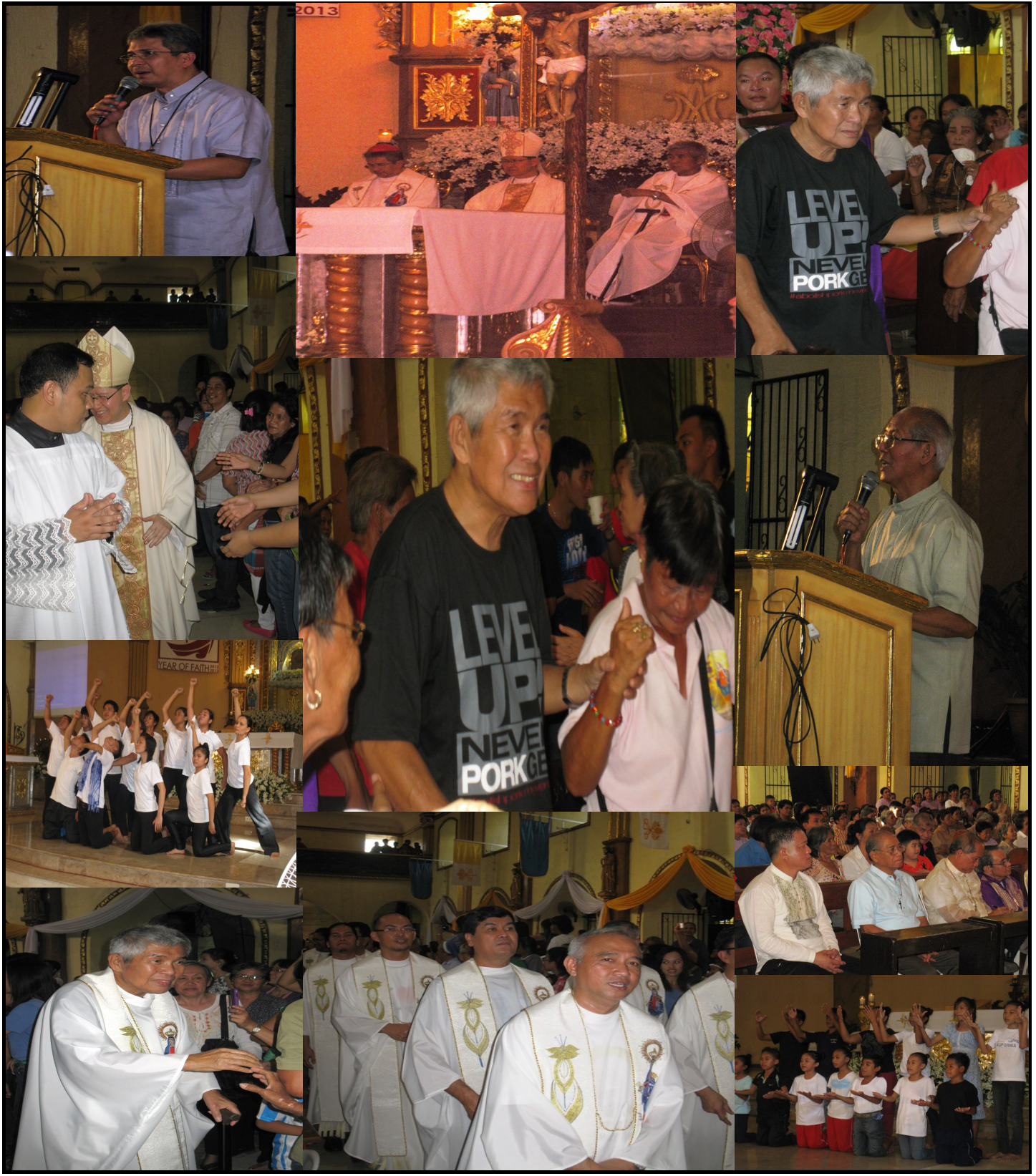
It seems prescient that the NCCP and Fr. Joe's jubilee coincide with each other. Through the years, the NCCP and Fr. Joe have witnessed together on various issues affecting the marginalized. From announcing and denouncing electoral fraud here in the country to trumpeting the ecumenical voice for peace and human rights against extrajudicial killings in the US Senate and Canadian Parliament, Fr. Joe was there with us. He was also very instrumental in crafting a statement on mission and evangelism that the World Council of Churches has adopted.

Those are just a few of Fr. Joe's contributions. Indeed, the ecumenical movement in the Philippines has been gifted with Fr. Joe's presence and accompaniment through the years and we thank the Lord for it.

We pray that you have many more years of good health, wisdom and compassion in the service of God and the people.

Features

Photos of
40th Presbyteral Anniversary of Fr. Joe
October 15, 2013, Most Holy Rosary Parish, Rosario, Cavite
Theme: The Church of the Poor, the Priesthood, and the New Evangelization



In Photos: CWS Activities

CWS School Supplies Giving

As part of the Church People-Workers Solidarity (CWS) Networking, Welfare and Service program, the CWS together with Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) distributed school supplies to the children of workers who recently lost their jobs due to contractualization namely workers from Pentagon Steel Corporation, Bluestar Labor Union in Tunasan, Muntinlupa, L.C.E. Workers union in Pasig and Eton. This was done last July 15, 2013, in Apolonio Samson Elementary School, Quezon City. A total of 99 school children benefited from this program. ★



Film Showing on Migrant Workers



In the recently held CBCP Plenary Council Meeting last July 7, 2013 at Pope Pius XII Session Hall in United Nations Avenue, Manila, twenty-eight bishops watched an indie film entitled "Migrante, The Filipino Diaspora". The film touches on the concrete conditions of our OFW brothers and sisters. The film stars Jodie Sta. Maria and Allen Dizon, directed by Joel Lamagan and written by Bonifacio Ilagan. The film-showing was initiated by Xiti Production, Church People-Workers Solidarity-National Capital Region (CWS-NCR) and Defend Job Philippines (DJP). Prior to the film showing, a short introduction about CWS and an input about the conditions of OFW workers was given by Gary Martinez of Migrante International. The bishops gave favourable feedbacks on the film. They also expressed interest in showing the said film in their own Dioceses. ★

Forum on Aquino's State of the Nation Address (SONA)

The Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR) and the Church People-Workers Solidarity (CWS) conducted a forum on the recent State of the Nation Address (SONA) of Pnoy. The forum entitled "Inclusive Growth ni Pnoy, Kasama Ka Ba?" was held at Culmat Bldg, E. Rogriguez Ave., Quezon City last July 31, 2013. The forum focused on a critical evaluation and assessment of the Pnoy's SONA in the light of the deepening and worsening poverty of the Filipinos. It was attended by more than fifty individuals from various groups from the basic sectors: workes, farmers, urban poor and from human rights workers and church people. Each sector expressed their real conditions which reflect a stark contrast to what Pnoy delivered in his speech. ★



In Photos: CWS Activities

Exposure Program for Asia Pacific Students and Youth Gathering



Thirteen foreign delegates from the Asia Pacific Students and Youth Gathering (ASYG) had a two-day exposure/immersion program and community visit at the Pentagon Steel Corporation. The delegates were composed of young people from different countries: four Indonesians, one Malaysian, one Indian, one Taiwanese and five from the Philippines. The main aim of the ASYG is “to nurture and sharpen the creative skills, theology and spirituality of the youth leaders and students who are actively involved to strengthen, revitalize and mobilize grassroots ecumenical movement.” The program started with a sharing on the situation of Pentagon workers by Jericho Canciller, union president. This was followed by a brief discussion on the national situation of workers by Mr. Raymond Aceña, union president of Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC). The delegates then visited the eight families of Pentagon workers in the community which was followed by sharing of experience and reflections. The program ended with a cultural night at the picket line. ★



Eucharistic Celebration at Pentagon Steel Picket line

Last July 19, 2013 at around 3:00PM, a Mass was held at Pentagon Steel Corporation. The mass was presided by Rev. Fr. Rudy Abao, MSC, one of the convenors of National Clergy Discernment Group (NCDG). The mass was attended by CWS staff and representatives from the Labor Ministry of the Diocese of Novaliches. This was in response to the call from CWS to the church-people to visit and hold liturgical celebrations at Pentagon Steel as a show of support and solidarity to the workers. After the mass, Fr. Rudy blessed the spot where a security guard died after being ran over by a truck carrying products from Pentagon Steel. ★



CWS-PCPR Pentagon Visit

As part of the continuing support of church people to Pentagon Workers, CWS together with Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR), Ecumenical Bishops' Forum (EBF), Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI), Kalipunan ng Kristiyanong Kabataan sa Pilipinas, brothers from the Missionaries of Jesus (MJ), a nun from Sisters of Sion and pastors from the United Methodist Church visited the picket line last July 27, 2013. The visit was graced by the presence of Rev. Marta Benavides, a pastor from El Salvador.

A short program was held at the picket line which highlighted various solidarity messages from church people most especially from Rev. Marta Benavides and Pastor Sol Villalon of UMC. Cultural presentations were also performed by the various church organizations. ★

In Photos: CWS Activities

Relief Operations at Parañaque City

A relief operation for more than three hundred families was held last August 24 to “floating communities” of freedom island in Brgy. La Huerta in Paranaque. Most of the residents who received relief goods were fisherfolks and pedicab drivers who were members of Kalipunan ng mga Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Paranaque and Samahan ng Mandaragat Kinabukasan at Pag-asa. The relief operation was led by Church People-workers Solidarity and Defend Jobs Philippines. The relief goods came from the generosity of National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), Sto. Domingo Church and Philippine Normal University (PNU) Office of the Campus Ministry led by Sr. Emie Ighot, MMB. Sr. Rosa of the Mercedarian Sisters along with two students from PNU Office of the Campus Ministry also assisted in the relief operation. ★



Education and Training Program of CWS



Fr. Joel Sabijon, Coordinator of the Labor Ministry of Diocese of Kalookan and CWS sponsored an Initial Introduction on the Issues of Labor last Sept 28, 2013 at San Bartolome Parish, Malabon City. It was attended by 48 participants (27 are Labor Ministry Coordinators), volunteers from different parishes from the Vicariate of San Bartolome namely Shrine of Our Lady of Grace, San Pracasio Parish, St. Joseph the Workman Parish, San Roque Cathedral Parish, Sto. Rosario Parish, Heart of Jesus and Mary Parish, San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish, San Jose de Agudo Parish, Immaculate Concepcion Parish, Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish and San Bartolome Parish. It was facilitated by Fr. Ricardo Torrefiel and Fr. Joel Sabijon, Coordinator of the Labor Ministry of Diocese of Kalookan. The program started with a liturgical dance of the youths from the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish followed by opening remarks from Fr. Ricardo Torrefiel. Fr. Joel gave a historical background of the Labor Ministry of Kalookan. Other inputs were given by Melona Daclan of Defend Job Philippines (DJP) and Atty. Remigio Saladero of Pro Labor Assistance Center (PLACE). ★

In Photos: CWS Activities

Church People-Workers Caucus

A Church People-Workers Caucus was held last September 14, 2013 at Blue Star Union picket line, RMT Compound, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City. Blue Star is the manufacturer of Advan Shoe which includes school shoes, boots and sandals. Spearheaded by Church People-Workers Solidarity (CWS) and Defend Job Philippines (DJP) at the said caucus discussed the workers' rights and the issue of contractualization. There was also a discussion on corruption and pork barrel. The caucus was attended by forty workers from Advan, two from Kilusang Mayo Uno National and CWS Secretariat. Also present was Sr. Emma Tusi from Congregation of Saint John the Baptist (CSSJB). The church people challenged and encouraged the Advan workers to unite and persevere in their struggle. Concrete plan of actions were also formulated. ★



Dialogue of Life among Church People and Workers in Cordillera

To give flesh to the commitment for a continued dialogue and strengthened solidarity between the church people and workers, the Church People-Workers Solidarity (CWS), Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research (EILER), Cordillera Ecumenical Movement for Action and Transformation (CEMAT), and North Luzon Jurisdictional Area of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (NLJA-UCCP) joined hands to sponsor and facilitate a genuine dialogue between the church people and workers of Cordillera with the end view of coming-up with a plan of action that would respond to the needs and calls of the workers in Cordillera.

After barely two months of preparation, the sponsor organizations held the Dialogue of Life among the Church People and Workers in Cordillera last Oct. 1, 2013 at the Little Flower Retreat House, #13 Villamor St. Luwalhati Barangay, Baguio City. It was attended by 65 people from different religious congregations, unions, and advocacy groups in the Cordillera region. The Dialogue of Life was notably the first of its kind held in the Cordillera region. ★



News Briefs

Labor and Employment

- **On World Day for Decent Work, Workers March to Mendiola vs. Contractualization**



Photo from Bulatlat.com

MANILA – On October 7, in observance of “World Day for Decent Work”, a workers’ alliance marched to Mendiola to call for the scrapping of contractual employment which they say embodies a serious attack on workers’ right to decent work.

For the seventh year now, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the biggest international confederation of labor groups, has been calling for workers’ mobilizations on the World Day for Decent Work as part of the struggle for social justice and decent work for all.



Photo from Bulatlat.com

- **MWAP Picket Protest**

On Oct 7, in observance of the World Day for Decent Work, Metal Workers Alliance of the Philippines (MWAP) held a picket protest in front of the main offices of the Philippine Export Zone Authority (PEZA) and the Department of Labor & Employment (DOLE) .

MWAP called on the Philippine government to walk its talk on decent work, by granting a living wage, ensuring regular jobs for the Filipino workers, an end to contractualization and to respect labour rights especially the right to unionize.

A workshop on occupational health and safety was also held last Oct 6. *(Continued on page 4.....)*

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Visayan Electric Company Employees Union

Mr. Eleazar Abaja

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Cordillera Labor Center

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International Wiring Systems Workers’ Union

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