



# ROUNDTABLE

## NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

### MCS Recognizes Vocations as part of CSW2017

by Fr. Jason Granado for The North Star



*Members of Saipan Municipal Council presented an award to His Excellency Ryan P. Jimenez, DD during the special tribute to honor the bishop. The program was held at the MCS gym as part of 2017 Catholic School's Week celebration.*

Vocation day has been one of the highlights of Mt. Carmel School celebration of the Annual Catholic School's Week. Last Wednesday, led by His Excellency Ryan P. Jimenez, the clergy, religious and some lay faithful visited the classrooms of students from 3rd to 12th grade to speak about vocation.

Students listened attentively as priests and the religious sisters shared their journey from first hearing the 'call' to follow God, to the sometimes rough but joy-filled period of formation and discernment and finally to a life-fulfilling ministry of the priesthood and/or religious life.

Students also had a chance to have a glimpse on the marriage and family life from the wonderful experiences of the married couples who shared how grateful they were to God for guiding their marriage and their family through many difficulties and challenges. These lay faithful are currently active in the different ministry in their respective parishes and they also impart to the students the joy of serving God either as Eucharistic ministers, lectors or in the choirs.

The vocation talk was done in the respective grade levels to make the setting more interactive and to engage the students to ask questions about priesthood or the religious life. Some 10th grade students shared how hearing the experiences from the priest and from the married couple helped them to think and consider on 'what God wants for them'. Most of the students if not all have their ideas on what they want to be someday or what their parents want them to be but most of them have never actually consider on 'what the will of God' is for them.

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Mount Carmel School

### CSW2017: Teacher and Staff of the Year



*Mount Carmel School's (MCS) 2017 Teacher of the Year, HeJin Lee (fifth from left), and Support Staff of the Year, Marlon Villafuerte (fourth from left), were recognized by school officials. From left to right: Vice Principal Bobby Baldazo, Vice Principal Helene Manning, MCS Board Treasurer Will Hunter, Marlon Villafuerte, HeJin Lee, MCS Board Chair Vicente "Ben" Babauta, 2017 Teacher of the Year runner up, Luz Baldazo, Director for Northern Marianas College's School of Education, Charlotte Cepeda, Dan Dan Middle School Vice Principal, Reo Arriola, Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, and MCS President Galvin Deleon Guerrero.*

HeJin Lee, a 5th grade teacher at Mount Carmel School, was recognized this week as the school's Teacher of the Year (TOY), while Marlon Villafuerte, the school's maintenance supervisor, was declared 2017 Support Staff of the Year. The runner up for the TOY was science teacher Luz Baldazo. The awards were presented by Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez and school officials this past Tuesday during the school's annual Faculty/Staff Appreciation Program held as part of the weeklong celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

Lee was shocked over the award. As she put it, "I still cannot believe it." When asked why she was in disbelief, she said, "I still have a lot of room for growth, so I am very humbled." She added, "This motivates me to work harder to become a better teacher."

Lee attributes her success to the support of her family, her teachers, and her colleagues. "My family has always supported me in whatever I do, even if means being away from them." Originally from South Korea, Lee has lived on Saipan for several years now while her family remained in Korea. Regarding her teachers, Lee recognized her instructors at Northern Marianas College: Velma Deleon Guerrero, Charlotte Cepeda, and Amanda Diaz. She finally recognized her fellow teachers at the school who, she said, "I can always depend on."

Three years ago, after earning her Bachelors in Science in Elementary Education from Northern Marianas College, Lee started teaching at the school. Since then, she has continued her education by completing various educational technology and literacy courses.

For his part, Marlon Villafuerte was recognized for his invaluable contributions to the school. School president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, was especially thankful for his service. "With a good heart, he helps in many ways, from repairing air conditioners, keeping our campus safe and clean, to setting up for various school events," Deleon Guerrero said. He added, "Our school thrives because of his unsung support."

#### HONORARY ALUMKNIGHTS RECOGNIZED

Villafuerte and Lee were not the only ones recognized at the program. Attorney Joseph Tajeron and social studies teacher Rosiky Camacho were also granted honorary diplomas declaring them AlumKnights for their twelve years of service at the school.

Camacho is a lifelong teacher who once also served as a representative to the CNMI House of Representatives.

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Home of the Knights

## Announcements

### Science Fair

Mount Carmel School's annual Science Fair is just around the corner (February 21 & 24). However, the selection process will be conducted differently this year, with class-level selections taking place first in order to determine which projects will advance to the school-level competition. Please consult with your child(ren)'s teacher(s) for more information.

## In the Future

### Night with the Knights

TOMORROW, Saturday, February 4  
6:00 pm at Pacific Islands Club

### Catholic Schools Week Holiday

Monday, February 6 (no classes)

### Mid-Quarter Progress Reports

Wednesday, February 8

### Sophomore Rose Gram

Wednesday, February 8

### NSDA Fried Oreo Gram

Thursday, February 9

### Senior Game Night

Friday, February 10

### Senior Hot Lunch

Saturday, February 11

## Sports Calendar

### Soccer

Monday, February 6  
MCS vs Chacha @Chacha  
Wednesday, February 8  
MCS vs Hopwood @Hopwood  
Girls games start at 3:30; boys at 4:45 pm

### CCOPSA Middle School Basketball

Tuesday, February 7  
MCS vs SDA @MCS at 3:30 pm  
Thursday, February 9  
MCS vs SIS @MCS at 3:30 pm

## ESLR of the Week

#1. Communicate effectively using various methods and mediums.

## CSW2017: Vocations

*continued from front*

The purpose of these vocation talks is to help young people to open their horizon and make them aware that God is the one 'calling' each person to follow him in a particular vocation the God designed for them. This also gives the students and opportunity to consider whether God is calling them to the priesthood or to the religious life.

After the vocation talk in individual classrooms, the whole school community gathered in the school gym for a special tribute to honor Bishop Ryan for his many contributions and support to MCS ever since he was a priest and even now as the second bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa. Members and representative of Saipan Municipal Council presented the plaque containing the special resolution adapted by the council.

Bishop Ryan in his remark, encourages the school community to promote vocation. "Our diocese will collapse if there are no vocations coming in our Catholic School", he said. He then asked the students if there are any who would like to be priests of religious sisters and many young students enthusiastically stood up and raised their hands to the delight and applause of everyone. "There is hope then", Bishop Ryan commented after. "There is hope for our diocese because of your vocations."



*Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez shares some reflections soon after the special tribute held for him as part of Catholic Schools Week Vocations Day.*

## Teacher and Staff of the Year

*continued from front*



*Attorney Joseph Tajjeron (front, right) was recognized by Mount Carmel School as an honorary AlumKnight for over 12 years of service as MCS Board Chair, mock trial coach, and volleyball coach. On hand to present the award were (from left to right) Vice Principal Helene Manning, Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, MCS Board Chair Vicente "Ben" Babauta, MCS Board Treasurer Will Hunter, and MCS President Galvin Deleon Guerrero.*

Tajjeron has coached mock trial and volleyball for over 12 years and served as the chair of the school's Board of Directors for four years. Under Tajjeron's leadership, the school reversed a decade of enrollment decline, going from about 250 students to a current enrollment of over 500, improved its financial situation, raised scores on standardized tests, and switched to a new accreditation model. On top of that, Tajjeron led the school board to give faculty and staff the first significant salary increase in over a decade.

<b>Catholic School Education</b> <b>176 Dioceses with Catholic schools</b>		<b>High School Graduation Rate</b> <b>99%</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS</b> <b>two million students</b> in preschool, elementary and secondary schools	<b>NEW CATHOLIC SCHOOLS</b> that opened in the 2015-2016 academic year: <b>14</b>	<b>Student Diversity:</b> <b>20.3%</b> are racial minorities, <b>16.1%</b> are Hispanic/Latino
<b>SPECIAL NEEDS:</b> <b>78.4 percent</b> of Catholic schools serve students with mild to moderate special needs.	<b>A Gift to the Nation:</b> Based on the average public school per pupil cost of <b>\$12,608</b> Catholic schools provide more than <b>\$4 billion</b> dollars a year savings for the nation.	<b>Staffing Ratio (National Average) 13:1</b> <b>School Waiting Lists 1,795</b> Top 10 Cities with Highest Catholic School Enrollment: Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Brooklyn, Boston, St. Louis, New Orleans
The total, full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching staff in Catholic elementary/grade and secondary schools is <b>151,101</b> .	Currently, <b>27 states</b> and the District of Columbia have legislation that provides some form of financial assistance to parents to help them choose a private or faith-based education for their children. Currently there are <b>59 publicly-financed programs</b> (vouchers, scholarships, education savings accounts and tax relief) available to assist parents with financial resources that enable them to exercise choice in their selection of a school for their children.	

