

JPIC -MBS HOLDS ORIENTATION AND DISASTER REDUCTION SEMINAR

The JPIC-MBS (Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation - Missionary Benedictine Sisters) sponsored a JPIC Orientation and Disaster Risk Reduction Seminar on March 6-8, 2014 at the Barrion Hall of St. Scholastica College with more than 50 participants composed of Sisters, lay partners and oblates representing all our Benedictine Communities except Legaspi and Tabunok and Pambujan.

After the message of M. Adelaida Ygrubay to the assembly, S. Cecille Ido, presented the JPIC Orientation. This was followed by a resource facilitator from the Center of Ecological Concern who shared on the State of Philippine Environment. Testimonies came from a representative of PEOPLE'S SURGE, a 17,000 strong organization of Yolanda survivors .

On the second day, March 7, the Main speaker on *Disaster Risk Reduction* was Mr. Raul Bermudez from the Paseo Study Center For Academic And Personal Formation. Raul Bermudez, Ph.D., is a doctor of criminology. He foiled the assassination attempt to Pope John Paul II in the World Youth Day in Manila. He apprehended the mastermind of the 1993 failed bombing of World Trade Center, Ramir Yousef. As a former FBI agent, he has been part of the team usually sent to help victims in earthquake and tsunami areas. He was one among the first group who responded to the needs of Yolanda victims.

Before the end of the seminar, participants shared and submitted their team plans, to be implemented in their different regions. The seminar culminated with a Mission Sending Liturgy followed by lunch.

By: S. M. Cecille Ido, OSB



Mother Adelaida Ygrubay, OSB



Sr. Cecille Ido, OSB



Mr. Raul Bermudez

CLIMATE CHANGE 2nd Interfaith Dialogue

In response to the recent natural disasters in our country which underscored the need for a concerted action to protect and sustain our natural resources, key leaders from different faith groups (e.g., Catholics, Protestant denominations, Muslims, Buddhist, etc.) converged on March 14, 2014 for a 2nd Interfaith Dialogue on Climate Change, at the Social Hall, Mabini Hall, Malacanang Palace from 8AM – 5PM. Sister Aida Velasquez, OSB, Sister Cecille Ido and S. Theodora Bilicura, OSB represented our priory as part of the AMRSWP delegation.

As a follow-up of the first dialogue held on Nov. 25, 2010 the Dialogue hoped to assess the progress of the intervention and the plan of action in promoting climate change consciousness. Furthermore, it hopes to intensify its engagement to climate change particularly in environmental issues related to Agriculture, Water and Food Security, Appropriate Transportation, Safe Power Generation, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation. These issues represented the workshop groups in the afternoon session.

After the Interfaith Prayers led by Aleem Said Ahmed Basher, Venerable Miao Jing, Rev. Dr. Timoteo Gener and Sr. Angie Villanueva, the group was welcomed by Bishop Efraim Tendero, of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches. Several in-puts followed on the following themes:

“Earth in Peril: a Climate Change Situationer”

by Comm. Heherzon T. Alvarez, CCC

“Mobilizing Faith Communities”

by Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, SJ, DD

“How Faith Communities can lead the Secular Environmental Movement”

by Ed Brown, MDiv, Creative Care

“Best Practices in Islamic Communities”

by Amina Rasul Bernardo, PCID

“The Business of Building Green”

by Atty. Teresita Lacerna, IFC-World

“Green Image Nation”

by Ernalou A. del Rosario, Canon

A similar dialogue has been planned to be conducted in the different regions of the country.

After A Commemorative Declaration of Commitment, Amina Rasul Bernardo gave the closing remarks followed by a Thanksgiving Prayer.

By: Sr. M. Cecille Ido, OSB

