

FEATURE

COMBINED UNIVERSITY RETREAT



In the week before Christmas, the annual Combined University Retreat (CUR) was held at the Office for Young People. It attracted its largest number of participants yet, consisting of Singaporean students from both local and overseas universities. This retreat was very eventful for both participants and service team with different themed sessions based on the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, Sacrament of Reconciliation and Daily Eucharistic Mass and Adoration to help them prepare their hearts for the Lord's arrival on Christmas.



What made this CUR exceptionally special and unique from previous years was the Evangelical Night on the 3rd day of the retreat. Participants and service team of the retreat were encouraged to invite a friend. On that night, a mini production was put up by the service team that portrayed a story of homecoming. After which, there was preaching by Fr Jude and a time of prayer. It was also a good opportunity for participants of the retreat to experience what it meant to be sent out on mission and put into practice being a true disciple of Christ. In pairs they were challenged to share their CUR testimony and pray with the friend that they had invited.



CUR is an annual 4-day Christmas retreat for all local and overseas university students

One phrase to describe my CUR experience: New creation! When I came into CUR, I had left the church for 2 years and was completely repulsed to the faith. This was due to experiences that made me think that the church was just made up of hypocrites. I was angry with God for the way that my life had turned out. However during one session, the words "You are enough" struck me as I had been struggling with self image the past year in particular. During the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I was led to pour my heart out to God through the priest and in doing so, I felt such peace which I have not felt in a long time. I was reminded to not let my past define me but to

recognise instead the progress I have been able to make since then. This allowed me to let go of my chains and be free to receive the Holy Spirit. CUR is an affirmation for me that God is real and that He hasn't given on me. - **Juliana Chia, University of New South Wales**

One word to describe my CUR experience would be Joy! Over the days of the retreat, Jesus reaffirmed my worth. He told me that I am weak and broken but I am deeply loved by Him. He meets me where I am. He has chosen me even before my birth. The very reason of my existence is because of Him. He created me in his likeness, He has blessed me with great richness of love and the innocence

of desire for Him. Just like how He humbled Himself, I can humble myself to meet Him and that is all I have to do. I realised that Jesus has always been present, in all the things that I have been tasked to do and He will continue to be that shining light in my life. If Jesus my Almighty Saviour can take that step to be incarnated as a human baby, I too can have that courage to say 'Yes!' to take up that cross and walk towards Him! - **Patricia Ter, NTU**



School of Witness 2020, Opening Mass



School of Witness 2020 participants and staff

On 6 January, we celebrated the opening mass for the 53 participants of the 11th School of Witness 2020. OYP chaplain, Fr Brian D'Souza presided over the mass attended by family and friends of the participants as well as School alumni over the years. The 2019 alumni blessed the participants through leading praise and worship, sharing of testimonies, performing a creativity dance and putting together a video of encouraging messages. "They are really inspiring and have fuelled the desire in me to seek and find the Lord for myself. I know that this season is one of unlearning and relearning, and of coming home to the Father. The mass reminded me of how the Father had welcomed

the prodigal son home, and that I am stepping into the Father's home again. I am excited that this School is the start of a possibly stretching but fruitful and rewarding journey with the Father for me and I am really happy to have said 'yes!'. - **Brian Fergus Phua, 27 Church of the Holy Family.**



Clarissa (extreme right) with her family

When my daughter Maxine told me that she had signed up for

SOW2020, I was pleasantly surprised. For us, it was a double blessing as our oldest daughter was in SOW2019.

It is every Catholic parent's wish that their children have a personal relationship with God our father, that they know THEY ARE A CHILD OF GOD. Our daughters making their own decision to put aside 8 weeks to be in the School of Witness shows their desire to deepen this relationship. We are truly grateful to God for touching their lives. We pray that this will be the beginning of a beautiful adventure with the Lord as we all journey on this earth towards our eternal home. My parents have taught me that "only one thing is needful (Luke 10:42)". I, too, want to pass this on to my children. I pray for all the participants of SOW2020, may they discover the way, the truth and the life in Jesus. - **Clarissa Teo, 47, Church of St Francis Xavier**



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOX at the Cathedral, 21 Feb



DRINK DEEPLY

LIVE FULLY

FRIDAY, 21 FEB 2020
8.30 - 11PM
CATHEDRAL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

BUT THOSE WHO DRINK OF THE WATER THAT I WILL GIVE THEM WILL NEVER BE THIRSTY. JOHN 4:14

Invite a friend to Nox to experience the presence of God as the community of faith prays together!

Polytechnic, ITE, Private Diploma



Shine Retreat

AN ENCOUNTER RETREAT FOR POLY, ITE & PRIVATE DIPLOMA STUDENTS

SAVE THE DATE!
24 - 27 MARCH 2020

Calling current and incoming polytechnic, ITE and private diploma students! Come encounter the Lord with fellow Catholic students at SHINE!