

# Columban Mission

PILGRIMS FOR CHRIST

ISSUE No. 42



## YOUNG COLUMBANS *Walking Together in Mission*

From January 11 to 24, 2026, the Young Columban gathered in Baguio City, bringing together 26 priests ordained from 2005 onwards and 11 lay missionaries sent for cross-cultural mission during the same period. Through prayer, formation sessions, cultural sharing, dialogue, and shared mission experiences, the gathering nurtured fellowship and companionship in mission, while offering space to reflect on the realities and hopes of Columban ministry today.

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Resource speakers shared inputs during the gathering: Fr. Finbar Maxwell, SSC, on Columban Spirituality; Fr. Jun De Peralta on Christian Discernment; Fr. Ramon Echica on Synodality and Leadership; and Amy Echeverria, Columban Society Coordinator for JPIC, on Columban priority and advocacy. The meeting was facilitated by Fr. Dennis Cagantas, with Emma Darling, Columban Communications Officer for Britain, serving as secretary and leading a session on communications.

The gathering concluded with the Young Columban presenting their **Commitment Statement**: *"We are Columban Missionaries called to participate in God's mission in a synodal way, walking together in partnership through shared responsibility and leadership. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we embrace our present realities with honesty, humility, hope, courage, trust and openness, and commit ourselves to intentional participation, fraternal love and transformative communion. As a small intercultural and faithful society, we work together in fewer RMUs, responding creatively to our two mission priorities: migrants and refugees, and biodiversity protection and restoration, striving for a sustainable Columban mission and presence."*

# *From the Regional Director*

As we continue to journey in this Easter season, we are reminded that the Resurrection remains at the heart of our faith. In moments of uncertainty, struggle, and loss, God's life-giving power is at work—renewing, restoring, and leading us forward.

Across our Columban ministries in the Philippines, we see signs of this new life in the resilience of the communities we serve and in the relationships we continue to build. Our ministries and work are expressions of the missionary heart of the Columban Society—standing with those who are most vulnerable and to care for our common home.

At the same time, we are mindful of the challenges we face: poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and a culture where corruption undermines the dignity and hopes of the people. These realities can be unsettling and, at times, even disorienting. Yet, Easter reminds us that such moments are not endings but invitations for renewal, transformation, and deeper trust in God's guiding Spirit.

We are also reminded that mission is never carried out alone. It is always a shared journey—marked by collaboration, mutual support, and communal discernment. Our mission continues to be enriched by the partnership among priests, lay missionaries, students, co-workers, mission partners, benefactors, and all those who walk with us. Together, we listen, we learn, and we respond more faithfully to God's call.

As we move forward, we are called to renew our energy and our commitment more deeply, responding with creativity and courage—especially in our commitment to the care and restoration of biodiversity and standing in solidarity with migrants and refugees.

May this Easter season renew our hearts, deepen our communion, and inspire us to move forward together with faith and courage.

*Yours in Mission,*



Fr. Leonito Distor

## Meet our New Regional Leadership Team



**Fr. Leonito Distor, SSC**  
Regional Director



**Fr. Finbar Maxwell, SSC**  
Regional Vice-Director



**Fr. Enrique Escobar, SSC**  
Council Member



**Fr. Jovito Dales, SSC**  
Council Member



**Fr. Dominic Nolan, SSC**  
Council Member



**Ms. Arlene Villahermosa**  
CLM Contact Person

# Milestones in Mission



**Congratulations to Fr. Jude Genovia, SSC**  
**Installed as Parish Priest, Our Lady of Remedies Church**  
 During his installation Mass, Father Jude reminds us that God is already present—waiting to be named, celebrated, and served. May his leadership in Malate Church continue to nurture a parish rooted in faith, hope, and service.



**Congratulations to Rev. Larry Duerme, SSC**  
**Ordained Deacon**  
 On Larry's ordination, Most Rev. Elias Ayuban Jr., CMF, DD, Bishop of Cubao, encouraged him to be a deacon of joy, rooted in the teachings of the New Testament and devoted to serving God's people. We pray that God may bless and guide Larry in his ministry.

## Comings and Goings

### WELCOME



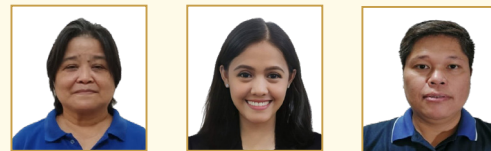
Abegail      Daisy      Zosimo      Junjie

We welcome **Abegail Abonitalla** to the Bursar's Office in Manila, and **Daisy Pajarillo, Zosimo Tapic, and Junjie Jabagat** in Negros Occidental.



### THANK YOU

Thank you, **Thelma Patapat, Ronalyn Caponpon, and Jaime Jungao**, for your years of dedicated service to Columban Mission. We are deeply grateful for the care and commitment you have shared, and we wish you every blessing in the journey ahead.



Thelma      Ronalyn      Jaime



*Joint Area Meeting 2026*

# Ministry Updates

## FORMATION *By Fr. Finbar Maxwell*

The second semester of formation year began on January 4, 2026, as the community returned to the formation house and resumed its rhythm of prayer, studies at Loyola School of Theology (LST), and pastoral ministry. After a brief Christmas break—marked by the joyful permanent membership and diaconate ordination of Larry G. Duerme in December—the community quickly settled back into formation life.

A significant milestone this semester is the completion of initial formation for the fourth-year theology students. We are grateful to share that Mosese Yacalevu, Hkun Myat Aung, Aung Li, and Tu Hkawng have successfully passed their Comprehensive examinations at LST. This marks an important step as they prepare for their next stage in mission.

Pastoral ministries continue to ground the students' formation. Mosese, Aung Li, and Francesco Pio are engaged in ministry with seafarers at Malate Parish, while Hkun Myat Aung and Ietawa Naati serve female persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) at Manila City Jail through counseling and prayer groups. Tu Hkawng



Columban Students with their formators, Fr. Ji Kwangkyu (back, left) and Fr. Finbar Maxwell (back, right), and the Regional Director, Fr. Leo Distor (front, right)

and Nadim Lumubos are working with Basic Ecclesial Communities at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Manila.

The formation program remains holistic, integrating academic, pastoral, spiritual, and community life. As the semester moves toward its conclusion in May, the community continues to journey together in commitment, preparing these young missionaries for future service.

## LAY MISSIONARIES *By Arlenne Villahermosa*

We warmly welcome back Lilibeth Sabado and Noh Hyein Anna to the region.



A Columban Lay Missionary since 2002, **Lilibeth Sabado** has served in Taiwan, Hong Kong (CLM leadership), China, and as the Philippines CLM Coordinator (2017–2021) before her assignment to the US-Mexico border.



**Hyein Noh Anna.** Anna's first assignment as Columban Lay Missionary was in the Philippines from 2011 until 2019 when she was reassigned to Korea.

At present, there are five long-term lay missionaries appointed to the Region, one of whom is on sabbatical leave. John Din, Lilibeth Sabado, and Arlenne Villahermosa are assigned to Negros, serving at the San Columbano Retreat and Mission Center in Batang, Talaban, Himamaylan City, and at the Santuario de San Columbano organic farm in Bantolainao, Kabankalan City.



Noh Hyein Anna is assigned to the Our Lady of Remedies Parish in Malate, Manila, where she is involved in the feeding program. She also facilitates the youth activities in the Parish sponsored by the Korean benefactors. Ana Flores is on sabbatical.

On September 8-11, 2025 CLM-Philippines held its annual meeting at the San Columbano Retreat and Mission Center, Batang. At the end of the meeting, together with the staff of the Retreat Center and the organic farm, they had an exposure trip to PeacePond, home of the PeacePond Farmers Association, a community focused on three advocacies: organic farming, solid waste management and regenerative agriculture in Binalbagan. It was a valuable time together - bonding and learning while having fun.



Columban Lay Missionaries with Bishop Gerry Alminaza: Preparatory meeting for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Columban Mission in Negros

# Ministry Updates

## OUR LADY OF LOURDES MISSION STATION *By Fr. Brendan Kelly*

Our Columban presence in Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Station, Don Victoriano Chiongbian, Misamis Occidental, is ending.

It has been a blessing in the lives of the faith community. A once peripheral, marginalized, and often neglected community has been regularly served, strengthening the catechetical, Eucharistic and youth ministries.



Fr. Brendan Kelly, in one of the chapels of Our Lady of Lourdes

Over the past thirteen years, six churches/chapels have been built with an eye to the future. They have brought joy and pride to the poor hinterland communities with significant Subanen population. A welcoming space has been created involving the use of the Subanen language and musical instruments that

attracted the Subanen and encouraged a previously unseen level of participation in the life of the church.

A once barren and degraded piece of land has been restored to a thriving forested space with 55 exotic and indigenous species, and a delightful cacophony of birds along with spiders, butterflies, moths and snakes. It is a testament to what care and patience can achieve.

*“As I leave Don Victoriano, I do so with a grateful heart. Yet I am also sad to leave a place and a people I have come to love and always will hold close in my heart.”*

The atmosphere of fear, trepidation and violence in the area is largely gone now. But another kind of threat lurks menacingly. The loss of ancestral land and environmental integrity continue, driven by tourism and infrastructure development roads that crisscross this vital protected watershed area, the source of 55 rivers.

Speaking out of heartfelt love and concern has not been without challenges, and it has brought things to a decisive point.

## MISSION PROMOTION *By Mission Promotion Team*



Mission partners plant trees as part of their commitment to caring for our common home.



Pilgrimage in Negros of Mission Partners from Luzon and Mindanao



Recollection of Mission Partners in Pagadian with Rev. Larry Duerme



Mission appeal at Malate Church



Recollection of Mission Partners in Iligan City, with Fr. Erl Tabaco and Fr. Kurt Pala.



Valentine Concert in Gratitude for our Columban Mission Partners

The Mission Promotion Team is composed of Fr. Rolly Aniscal, SSC, Coordinator, and Animators Bernie Durangparang for Mindanao, and Evelyn Sabate for Luzon.

# Seeds of Faith, Signs of Hope

*This is a collective reflection of the parishioners of Our Mother of Perpetual Help - Barra, and prepared by Villamor Jr. V. Adatan (Pao), Coordinator - Deaf Ministry*

Last year, Our Mother of Perpetual Help-Barra (OMPH-Barra) marked its third year as a parish since its elevation in 2022 and its designation as an ecology parish. Looking back, we, the parishioners, recall how much has changed in a short time. Much has been accomplished: a land has been secured for the future parish church, several new chapels have been established, and ministries have grown both in number and in spirit. More parishioners, especially the youth, catechists, and lay leaders, have found their place in service. This shared commitment has helped the parish community to come alive in faith.

Part of this life is rooted in the parish's mission as an ecology parish. Caring for creation is not just a program, but a way of living out the Gospel and the spirit of *Laudato Si'*. Over the past three years, the community has taken part in tree-growing activities, coastal and community clean-ups, and efforts to reduce single-use plastics. Parishioners see these as small but important steps in protecting the environment and honoring the God who created it. For many, it is a reminder that faith is not confined within the walls of the church, but is lived out in how we care for the world around us.

Alongside this mission, there have also been many blessings. The current church building itself has been



OMPH parishioners planting trees in Tingalan, Opol, on land generously donated by a parishioner.

repaired and improved, making it more welcoming for all. Regular meetings of leaders and coordinators have strengthened communication and transparency, with the support of the parish priest, Fr. Enrique E. Escobar, SSC, whose presence and generosity continue to inspire the faithful. Families speak with gratitude about how they have been able to support missionaries and seminarians, while chapels such as Puntacon have received practical help for their liturgical needs. These are simple signs of God's providence at work in everyday life.

As OMPH-Barra continues to celebrate this milestone, the parish looks forward to more years of journeying together... growing in faith, united in service, and caring for our common home.

## SUBANEN CRAFTS *By Fr. Vinnie Busch*

Subanen Crafts Ministry connects the life concerns of the Subanen people with faith, culture, and Columban Mission priorities. Through our Christmas cards and handcrafted items, the ministry reflects the struggles of Subanen families alongside the story of the Holy Family. It also celebrates the ecological wisdom of Subanen culture and their deep spiritual relationship with their endangered habitat. Our crafts

remind us that Indigenous Peoples have a universal message: that all nations need to celebrate, protect, and nurture our endangered Earth – our common home. With the support of the Columban Mission Offices in Ireland, Australia, England and the USA, our cards and crafts are distributed to nearly 30,000 recipients each year. These help raise awareness of the importance of Indigenous Peoples and the efforts being made to restore and protect their habitats.

As a livelihood project, the ministry supports families and helps reduce the need for migration in search of work, often as housebound servants and day laborers.

Ultimately, the Subanen Crafts Ministry seeks to build Spirit-led communities that care for one another and for the habitats entrusted to us by God.



Subanen Crafters

# Columban Mission in Negros at 75

Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future *By Arlene Villahermosa, CLM*

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Columban Mission in Negros (1950–2025) commemorates a legacy of “integral evangelization” that has deeply influenced the island’s spiritual, social, and ecological landscape. Celebrating 75 years of presence signifies a transition - from building the local church to a renewed, more audacious mission focused on responding to modern crises such as biodiversity loss and social inequality.

The celebration was simple yet meaningful, filled with gratitude, joy, and hope. It became a time to rekindle friendships, honor the Columbans who helped build the local Church, and open pathways for new relationships and a more synodal way of being Church together.



The activities began with a tree-growing initiative at the Santuario de San Columbano-Bantolinao, where around 750 native trees were planted to symbolize the 75 years of mission. About 100 participants from various sectors, including community schools, Columban missionaries, *Negros Nine*, mission partners, diocesan representatives, government agencies, and civic groups joined the effort.

On November 23, Christ the King Sunday and the feast day of St. Columban, the local community in Batang gathered for a Eucharistic Celebration with the Columban Missionaries, mission partners from Luzon and Mindanao who were on pilgrimage, the Amigo Columbano group, the Presentation Sisters and some friends. This was followed by a shared meal, reinforcing

community bonds.

The following day featured a conference on “Laudato Si and the Island of Negros,” highlighting the Columbans’ commitment to listening to the “cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” The resource speaker was Bp. Gerry Alminaza, Diocese of San Carlos, Chairman of the Episcopal Commission on Social Action, Justice and Peace of the Catholic Bishops Conference-Philippines, and President of Caritas-Philippines. It was followed by a Holy Mass presided by the Bishop of Kabankalan, Bp Louie Galbines, DD, and concelebrated by Bishop Gerry Alminaza, Columban priests and the Kabankalan diocesan clergy.

The event concluded with a thanksgiving meal shared by all who have journeyed with the Columban Missionaries through the years.

The anniversary was not just a celebration of the past; it also marked a turning point that reflects:

- gratitude for a rich missionary legacy,
- recognition of the Church’s role in social transformation, and
- a bold commitment to face today’s challenges with renewed hope and purpose.



*In essence, it is both a culmination and a commissioning — honoring what has been built while embracing what must still be done.*



November 24, 2025

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Columban Mission in Negros – Mass presided by Bishop Louie Galbines of Kabankalan Diocese with the Columban Missionaries and Mission Partners.

# Ministry Updates

## JPIC / SOCIETY INVITATION TO MISSION *By John Din*

We continue to recover the original permaculture design of the farm by identifying its components, cleaning canals, and pruning trees to allow sunlight to reach crops like coffee. The Santuario de San Columbano is not just about forest restoration; it is about care for the people and the planet, where the farm, trees, and animals are integral to its flourishing.

We strengthen our network with the local Church by inviting the Social Action Team and the Commission on Integral Ecology to join a recent workshop, together with participants from Taiwan and the SIM exposure family from Britain.

On Earth Day, we will meet with communities



Volleyball game at the newly painted basketball court during the Earth Day Community Sportsfest



John Din (L) at the signing of the Deed of Donation of a one hectare land to Florentino Galang Sr. NHS – Colambo Ext.

(purok/sitio) to share the current state of the reforestation program and propose a biodiversity corridor linking the area with nearby private forest spots. This vision is shared with the President of Central Philippines State University, with hopes of developing a comprehensive project proposal.

A sports festival (basketball and volleyball) will also be held, with teams registering through 25 bagged native tree seedlings. Long-term, we hope to begin a market day in the farm and develop the Santuario as a place for research and SIM exposure, remaining open to the grace and surprises that unfold.

## JPIC - MINDANAO *By Marjorie Engcoy*

Last January 10, 2026, the Central JPIC Coordinator, Amy Echeverria, began her visitation to the mission areas in Mindanao – from Don Victoriano, Midsalip, Ozamiz, and down to Cagayan de Oro City, focusing on the Society’s mission priorities, Biodiversity Protection and Restoration, and Migrants and Refugees. This was followed by the visit of James Trewby, Justice, Peace, and Ecology (JPE) coordinator for Britain to the Columban-Higaonon Tree Growing Project, in partnership with the 27 Catholic schools in Britain. He brought letters from the students, and in exchange, the Higaonon Indigenous community through Datu Ontong and Datu Hapitan, offered handcrafted beadwork, a cultural souvenir as a token of appreciation. Both visits concluded with the tribute visit to the victims of Typhoon Sendong at the Memorial Wall just right outside the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. Augustine.

The tree-growing project, now on its 9th year, shows growth in its first 2.5 hectares site, now home again to local birds, insects, and a few wild animals. However, young trees in Sitio Langag face challenges due to heat and poor soil.

Meanwhile, in response to the invitation to care for our common home, Laudato Si’ Animators from the Divine Mercy Vicariate of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro evaluated their May 2024 Plan of Action, affirmed their efforts, and developed a new three-year plan.



Fr. Sean Martin (center) with Amy Echeverria (R), Marjorie Engcoy (L) and two lay people from Liloan parish

## Guide for group prayer and reflection

This series of ten topics aims to help us reflect and discern where in our world are we called to be “light to the world & salt for the earth” and to help others live out the same calling. This is an adaptation of the Gospel of Life resource published by the Columban Center for Peace, Ecology and Justice, Australia

### Session Ten: Mission

**INTRO:** The Church is missionary by nature. For the Society of St. Columban, its special call is to cross boundaries of language, culture, and faith to bring the Gospel to all. Their special charism is: to live and preach the Gospel within other cultures, to be with the poor and oppressed in their struggle for freedom, to work for the integrity and care for creation, and to promote dialogue and understanding among peoples and Churches. For most, mission is closer to home—in the family, workplace, schools, and community. A Christian community is never meant to be closed in on itself. We are called to look beyond our concerns, reach out to others, and be open to encountering God in surprising places and people.

**READING:** ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.’ Mark 16:15 (silence after the reading)

**REFLECTION:** Christians have an extraordinary treasure to offer in the Good News of the Gospel. One doorway to offering our gift to the world and cooperating in God’s mission is to bring our faith and the culture of our society into dialogue. The light of Jesus transforms the darkness which is in the world and brings joy and hope to people.

**SHARING:** Where do you see your mission “closer to home” at this time?

**CLOSING PRAYER:** We are called.

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING PRINCIPLE** All people are members of the one human family; all are created in the image of God. People everywhere, along with the planet we share, are linked together by a common destiny which calls us to stand with each other and with Earth in radical solidarity for the good of all.

## MEMORIES FROM THE HEART

“A long time ago, while jogging behind the convent in Kabankalan, I met **Fr. Brian Gore**. He asked me, “Why are you jogging? What is your purpose?” I replied, “It’s my dream to be a boxer – I have big fists.” He smiled and said, “If you become a boxer, many brains will be damaged.” That remark stayed with me and made me think. So instead, I became a carpenter. Later, Father Gore invited me to help him build Christian Communities in Oringao. Over the years, he helped build institutions, protect the environment, and save lives. - **Osting Jompilla, Oringao, Kabankalan City**

“I spent many years with *Padre (Fr. Brian Gore)* since 2007. He may be gone, but he is deeply remembered for his generosity and all the goodness he shared with us. He never refused anyone in need. I can still see his face, and he continues to live in our minds and hearts. We will never forget him.” - **Anastasia de la Serna, Catechist, Bantoliniao**

“**Fr. Brian Gore** cared deeply for nature, for animals – especially dogs – and above all, for the people God sent to him. He had the gift of making you feel that you and your life truly mattered. He was JPIC (Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation) personified. I am grateful for his generous sharing of his passion, advocacies, and beliefs, and for the privilege of taking part in his noble work.” - **Mary Joy Rile Servicio, Negros Nine HDFI Board Member**

“In the heart of Negros, the name **Fr. Brian Gore** is more than just a name, it is a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to the Church of the Poor.” He is a true friend to the marginalized and a great shepherd to his flock. He lived and showed us that faith is not silent, but a powerful labor of love that transforms suffering into an enduring light of hope. - **Michael Brian Arcedas, Kabankalan City**

“**Fr. Brian Gore** lived a life of courage, love, and service. We, the people of Oringao, will always remember him as a hero who stood for justice and helped restore peace in our community. Though he is gone, his legacy will forever remain in our hearts.” - **Jesus Arzaga, Oringao, Kabankalan City**

“I met **Fr. Brian Gore** when he first came to Kabankalan as a volunteer catechist. He was friendly and approachable, never minding one’s status in life. The last time I spoke with him was after the Holy Thursday Mass last year. He told me we were nearing the “port of our life,” then asked, “When I die, will you visit me at my grave?” I assured him I would. He died on Easter Sunday, and since then, I visit him each month and offer prayers. - **Teresa Reyes, Catechist, Kabankalan**





*“Thank you to all our dear Mission Partners - individuals, families, groups, organizations, schools, and parishes. Your faithful commitment to the Columban Mission helps sustain the formation of students and ministries that bring hope to those on the margins, especially those affected by ecological destruction.”*



## PARISHES

### Mindanao

#### Archdiocese of Ozamiz

1. San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish, Ozamiz City
2. Sta. Cruz Parish, Liloan, Bonifacio

#### Diocese of Iligan

3. Corpus Christi, Iligan City
4. St. Michael the Archangel Cathedral
5. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Linamon, Lanao del Norte

#### Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro

6. Saint Augustine Cathedral
7. San Lorenzo Ruiz Filipino-Chinese Community Parish
8. Holy Rosary Parish, Agusan, Cagayan de Oro City
9. Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Bugo, Cagayan de Oro City
10. Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, Barra, Opol

#### Diocese of Malaybalay

11. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Camp Phillips, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon

#### Diocese of Tandag

12. San Agustin Parish, San Agustin, Surigao del Sur

### Luzon

#### Archdiocese of Manila

1. Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate

#### Diocese of Pasig

2. Sagrada Familia, Lower Bicutan, Pasig

#### Diocese of Antipolo

3. San Andres Parish, Cainta, Rizal

#### Diocese of Iba

4. San Roque Parish, San Narciso, Zambales

#### Diocese of Cavite

5. Holy Family Parish, Lancaster City
6. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Tagaytay

## SCHOOLS

### Mindanao

#### Misamis Occidental

1. St. Nicholas High School, Plaridel
2. St. Francis Xavier High School, Lopez Jaena

#### Lanao del Norte

3. Holy Cross High School, Kolambugan
4. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Academy, Linamon
5. Corpus Cristi Parochial School, Iligan City

#### Misamis Oriental

6. St. Mary's Academy of Tagoloan
7. St. Isidore School, Medina
8. Gingoog City Colleges, Gingoog City

#### Agusan del Norte

9. Father Urios Institute of Ampayan, Butuan City

#### Surigao del Sur

10. Saint Augustine High School, San Agustin
11. St. Theresa College, Tandag City

#### Bukidnon

12. Holy Cross High School, Camp Phillips, Manolo Fortich
13. Pilar High School, Sumilao
14. San Isidro College, Malaybalay City
15. Saint Michael High School, Linabo, Malaybalay City
16. San Agustin Institute of Technology, Valencia
17. St. Joseph Hig School of Laligan, Valencia
18. Nuestra Señora Del Pilar High School, Quezon
19. Loyola High School, Don Carlos

### Luzon

#### La Union

1. St. Christopher Academy, Bangar
2. Sta. Catalina Academy, Luna
3. San Nicolas Academy, Balaoan
4. St. Michael Academy, Bacnotan
5. Stella Maris Academy, Bacnotan

6. St. Jude Montessori Educational Center, San Ferando
  7. Sacred Heart School, Central East, Bauang
  8. Sts. Peter and Paul Learning Center, Bauang
  9. St. Augustine School of Naguilian, Inc. - Naguilian
  10. St. John the Baptist, Caba
  11. Notre Dame Institute, Aringay
  12. St. Mary's Academy, Ago
  13. San Alberto Magno Academy, Tubao
  14. St. Mary's of the Sea Academy, Sto. Tomas
  15. Pugo Catholic School, Pugo
  16. Saint Mary's Academy, Rosario
- #### Pangasinan
17. St. Columban College, Lingayen
  18. St. Columban School, Labrador
  19. St. Columban Institute, Domalandan
- #### Zambales
20. St. Joseph College, Olongapo
  21. St. Columban College, Olongapo
  22. St. Nicholas Academy, Castillejos
  23. Immaculae Conception Academy, Cabangan
  24. San Andres School, Masinloc
- #### Rizal
25. Child Jesus of Prague School, Binangonan
- #### Manila
26. Blessed Elena Academy, Pasay City

## ESTABLISHMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

1. Savemore Market
2. Wilcon Depot
3. Cake Co, Pagadian city
4. Salon de Alfonso, Pagadian city
5. Shann's Pharmacy, Pagadian city
6. Sekwate Haus, Pagadian city
7. Lopue's Department Store - Negros Occ.
8. DMD Accounting Firm
9. Amigo Columbano

## Meet Our Columban Mission Partners



Ambie and her mom

“The masses at Malate Catholic Church are deeply reverent, reflecting a community rooted in warmth, respect, and care for all, including the Earth. This Columban spirit draws many, including our family, to Our Lady of Remedies parish. It is a spirit of compassion and commitment to

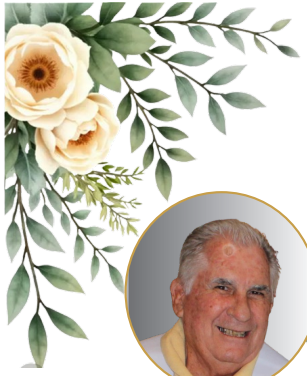
social and ecological justice, expressed even in daily life. Inspired by this witness, Mommy supported the formation of Columban seminarians, believing that this spirit must continue to flourish so more lives may be touched and guided towards God's love.”- **Ambie Ocampo**



Anselma

“From 1981 to 1995, the Columban priests served at San Agustin Parish in Surigao del Sur, where I became one of their working scholars. They played a pivotal role in shaping my life. For 35 years, I have served at Saint Augustine High School, guided by the discipline, values, and deep faith they instilled in me. With

gratitude, I remember the Columban priests, especially Fr. Valentine Kyne, Fr. Peter O'Neill, Fr. Patrick Reidy, and Fr. John Meaney, for their love and generosity. I continue to support the Columban mission in my own little ways and am proud to be a Columban Mission Partner.”- **Anselma Gascon**



# Those Who Journeyed With Us



**FR. BRIAN GORE, SSC**, died on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, in Kabankalan, Negros Occidental. Born in Perth Australia in 1944, he was ordained in 1968 and arrived in the Philippines in 1969. He served in Negros, working closely with marginalized sugar workers and farmers, helping form Basic Christian Communities that promoted nonviolent advocacy. In 1983, he was arrested with the “Negros Nine” and imprisoned for 14 months before charges were dismissed. He later co-founded the Negros Nine Human Development Foundation, promoting sustainable agriculture and community development. Known as the poor man’s priest, he is remembered for his deep love for the Filipino people and commitment to justice.

**FR. RICHARD (Dick) L. PANKRATZ, SSC**, passed away on October 25, 2025. Born in 1947, in Wisconsin, USA, he was ordained on June 8, 1974. Father Dick served in Mindanao in parish ministry, vocation promotion, and leadership, including assignments in Anakan, Talisayan, Magsaysay, and Agusan. He was deeply committed to those on the margins, especially the hearing impaired, and helped establish the Deaf Ministry in the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro. He also served as District Superior of Mindanao. He is remembered for his joyful spirit, compassion, creativity and love for the for the people.



**FR. JOHN MOLLOY, SSC**, died peacefully on 21 February 2026 at St. Columban’s Retirement Home, Ireland. Born in 1936 in Ireland, ordained 21 December 1961, he devoted fourteen years (1963-1977) of his priestly life to serving the people of Mindanao, faithfully ministering in Mambajao, Gingoog, Pagadian, Dinas, Lanipao and Bonifacio. A quiet and gentle missionary, he gave himself generously to the communities he loved.

**SR. PAT ZANDREWS, SSC**, passed away on January 31, 2026. She dedicated herself to the formation of Filipino Columban Lay Missionaries from 1990 until her return to the USA in 2003. She served as Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) supervisor for lay missionaries in orientation and, in 2000, was appointed Coordinator of the Columban Lay Missionaries – Philippines. As a Clinical Pastoral Education supervisor, Sr. Pat offered compassionate care and guided others to minister with authenticity, helping them face their personal struggles without letting these diminish their presence to those they served.



## MEMORIES FROM THE HEART

“I’ve been reading the many heartfelt FB comments from former parishioners and friends about **Fr. Dick Pankratz** – so many lives touched, friendships formed, and communities strengthened. It’s amazing how deeply he’s still remembered. He once served in the parish where my grandparents lived, and even now, people recall ‘the priest who danced with everyone during the Patron Feast fiesta’ and who didn’t mind sleeping on the floor with the locals. That simple joy and closeness to the people captured who he really was.” - **Fr. Darwin Bayaca, SSC**

“**Fr. Dick Pankratz** had a compassionate heart for those in need. He patiently learned the language of the Deaf so he could communicate with them and hear their confessions. One memory that stays with me is of a 55-year old man who made his first confession in sign language; a month later, he passed away. “We saved a soul,” Father Dick would say. He was generously supportive of all our ministry work, especially in the Deaf Ministry in Agusan, which now continues at the archdiocesan level. I am forever grateful for the many memories he shared with us. He will always remain in our hearts. - **Vilma Arante, Cagayan de Oro**

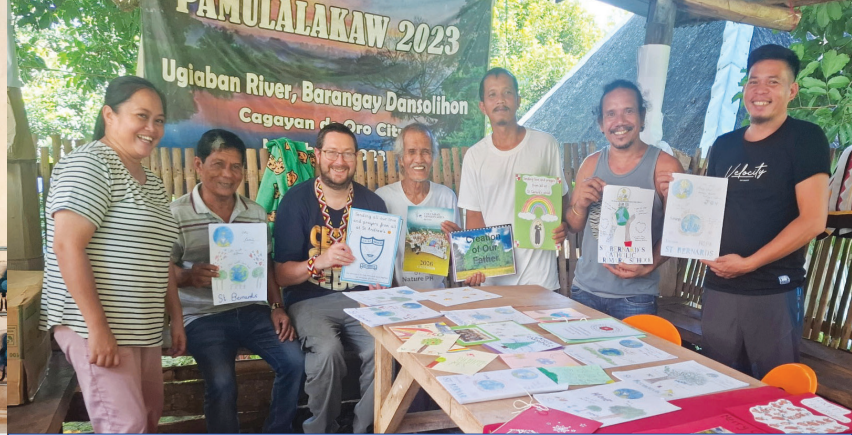
“**Sr. Pat Andrews** was one of the best formators I have had – not just a formator, but also a very good friend. She was a woman of few words, yet full of warmth and depth. Thoughtful and caring, I will always miss her gentle smile. Thank you for everything, Sr. Pat. - **Cristina Simpron, Columban Lay Missionary**

“After CPE, I made a decision to leave the CLM orientation (RP12) out of uncertainty. As the group left for Olongapo, I stayed behind, preparing to go home. In one final conversation, **Sr. Pat Andrews** sensed that quiet shimmer of desire within me and gently encouraged me to go to Olongapo and continue. I am deeply grateful for that moment – she helped shape my lay missionary vocation. - **Marley Dacanay, Columban Lay Missionary**





Fr. Leo Distor and Bishop Ruperto Cruz Santos, D.D., of Antipolo, during the latter's visit to the Columban Missionaries in Malate.



James Trewby (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) presents letters from students of the 27 partner schools in Britain to the Higaanon community.



Walk for Creation



Fr. Enrique Escobar and the IRD members engage in dialogue with the Muslim community in Vamenta, Barra.



ColumbanMissionaries2025  
11 January 2026 11:34 am

Amy Echeverria (wearing a hat) with Laudato Si' Animators, on their way to a Subanen Village

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