

Ash Wednesday

The Start of Lent



How did Lent Start?

The 1st reading from the book of Joel mentions the prophet describing an event called the 'Day of the Lord', a day associated with judgment and destruction. To avoid its consequences, Joel tells the people to perform outward expressions of mourning, such as fasting and weeping (Jl 2:12). These actions were meant to correct the people's behavior and focus on improving their relationships with God.

Why do we begin with wearing ashes?

Wearing ashes can be a sign of mourning, but it also unites us as we embark on this solemn period to be introspective and to behave in a way that nurtures our relationship with God. "Return to me with your whole heart" (Jl 2:12). Also, we are reminded of our origins which came from Him, "For you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Gn 3:19b).

What should we do during Lenten season?

There are 3 pillars of lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Our prayer is the holy covenant relationship between us and God. Fasting & abstinence are compulsory during Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for those aged 18-60 year old. Fasting means to eat a full meal once in a day. The ultimate goal is to help each one of us make a complete gift of self to God and to offer special intentions or petitions to Him. Almsgiving encourages us to have a generous heart that is willing to pay attention to the need of others. Altogether, they will bring us to a deeper conversion and understanding of what Lent is all about.

Cynthia H. Wijaya

CFJ CCD & Lector

Get Involved !

CFJ Bible Fellowship

Wednesday, 7 PM

Venue : Will be broadcasted weekly

Contact Person :

Kelvin Sutandar (+62 812-8183-4550)

CFJ Choir Practice

Tuesday, 7 PM

Venue : Ambiente Jln. Senopati no. 70

Contact Person :

Fransiska Darmawan

(+62 812-8183-4550)

CFJ Kids

Weekly Sunday School, 11 AM

Venue : Gereja Katolik St.Perawan

Maria Ratu (Blok Q Church)

Contact Person :

Krista Oen (+62 813-8108-9798)

Friska Ruslim (+62 812-6743-218)

CFJ Mass Servers

Lectors & Altar servers

Contact Person :

Felicia Husada (+62 821-6101-9933)

CFJ Newsletter Team

Contact Person :

Anastasia Liando (+62 821-8800-0821)

CFJ Ushers & Audio Visual

Contact Person :

Mardhika Riady (+62 818-717-325)

E info@cfjakarta.com

W www.cfjakarta.org

f facebook.com/cfjakarta

@catholicfellowshipjakarta

Maumere Mau Yesus 2020



With the mission of #CFJ4TheWorld, we went for our 3rd mission trip to Maumere, Flores, a 3 days retreat and training to our biggest class so far! - more than 460 youth leaders from 36 church parishes in Flores. We aim to spread the joy and hope of Christ, encourage the youths to dream big, and most importantly, to have personal transformative encounters with God. We hope to help them realize their God-given potential as leaders while transforming the entire community.

The Lessons Learnt

- Miracles happen! Hearing 3 testimonies from the youths of how God works His miracles in healing sicknesses and in their daily lives and their certainty that Jesus is their personal savior, are great encouragement and hope.
- Rest in God's providence, *"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* - Phil 4:19. 1 day before the mission, the number of youths added by 100. I was panicked that we won't have enough resources & volunteers. But God knows, and it's all in His plan. I was taught that I would never face a need for which God's provision is not more than adequate. Having faith in His providence, instead of relying on our own strengths. We have tried to labor as if all depended on us, and then always learning the lesson to fall back upon our Father with the calm faith that all depends on Him.
- God heals the deepest wounds. We sensed a lot of inner wounds as the youths were longing for God to heal them and we prayed for each of their names to surrender all our brokenness to God and to be reminded that, "by His wounds, we are healed."
- Surrender. The biggest team of mostly first-timers volunteers showed that God works through anyone who surrenders to Him. Ordinary people in the hands of a mighty God to do His extraordinary works. We learned to empty ourselves of our own desires and fully surrender to be His vessels, in the hands of His Spirit.
- Joy. Despite 3 hours of sleep for 3 days, God gave me newfound energy rooted in the deep joy in doing His works. We came to give and to serve, but we were the ones given the greatest rewards of deep joy and being witnesses to God's power.
- Love is the greatest of all. In the Flores youths, the volunteers, the priests, the works, the prayers, the communions, the fellowships, all testifies God's great love for us.

Jessica Winarko
CFJ President



One of the DC volunteer (that I'm not familiar with) actually messaged me during break time at day 2, saying since a week before MMY this person felt there's a message for one CFJ members who also went to last year CFJ x DC retreat. After figuring out it was me, the message was pretty much God saying something like this to me through this person

"I am with you, despite all your pain and what you feel, there is nothing wrong with you, and nothing you have to prove, cause you belong to my song of love"

So I guess for me my main takeaway would be this God is with you despite your wounds or what you feel, and to Him, you are always enough just as you are.

Alvin Arinardi
CFJ Member



It was a true blessing to have gotten the chance to serve with CFJ in this mission trip. I've learned to see that no suffering or trauma is ever too big to God. I'm sure all of us experienced pain or problem somewhat or somehow in their life, making it difficult to acknowledge God's love for us. But God has spoken to me well; no matter what your pain, how small, how big, Jesus came to heal it all.

Quoting from the Bible: Romans 8:18 "The pain that you've been feeling cannot compare to the Joy that's coming". God knows every and each one of us, He understands us, His plan is bigger than ours, He loves us. So one thing I know for sure now, that in all moments of my life and in all times your lives, we have never and will never walk alone, as He's always with us.

Winnie Wijaya
CFJ Member





I have doubted God for several years before joining the MMY trip. Despite all the love which He had granted me 10 years back, I found myself started questioning His existence and power as life got harder and it felt like He is nowhere to be found. I used to think that if He was there, loved me and was able, He should have already come out and solve it all. But He hadn't. So I was doubtful and afraid. Faith was up and down during this period. Then, this Maumere thing came up and I remember someone told me that serving His people is best way to find Him so I abruptly signed up.

Less that I know that this sudden decision of mine is actually His grace that leads me home. There, He works miracles; such an obvious one which left me impossible to miss or doubt. From prayers that can be felt from kilometers away, rock hard hearts that unstopably melted, massive reconciliations, which happened within minutes, and words that come out unpredictably. I can't really find the right word to describe His works in MMY. But here I learn that His power goes beyond something we can comprehend and His goodness goes beyond what we feel. And I feel secured and loved. For those of you who really long for Him, I would really recommend you to go for a short mission trip and let Him transform your faith

Devita Tjitra

CFJ Praise & Worship

There's one thing I know for sure: pain is inevitable. When thing goes wrong and suddenly I'm doubting his presence. The truth is, God is with me in every trial & triumph.

Lot of people told me that You have plan, but I get impatient waiting and having expectation of Him to lead me through life. I kept chasing things that aren't meant for me & letting guilt cloud my mind that breaking every little muscle beating inside my chest — to feel, to open & to give. With confusion, disappointment, doubts have blinded and aggregated of endless misery it seems. I've learned that Your timing is never one minute too early or one minute too late. At just the right times, you have allowed me to cross path with CFJ of those would love, cherish and reminded me of You. They allowed me to give hope to Maumere community who were lost as I once was.

In these beautifully painful moments — I've found deeper sense of comfort that the most perfect plan in our life only if I surrender my heart to Him.

In darkest & lowest moments — you've thought me what it is to be ever-so-grateful for the depths of infinite possibility within it.

And for all of that, I don't think I can ever thank You enough.

Thank you for showing us how to heal, for family, friends, CFJ, coworkers, strangers, and lovers. Most importantly the times you've guided our heart what it feels like to reveal our unwavering faith, sculpting us with every trauma, to feel nothing & everything. In the world as a place of such majesty but also such a heartache; You filled in with Your love & everlasting hope. God, please guide us to see the world through lens of love and compassion.

Maria Jessica

CFJ Member



I learned a lot of things from my very first mission trip to Maumere. My faith in Jesus has been strengthened and I feel really blessed to serve in this mission trip.

First of all, I am still amazed by how God blesses us and how GREAT He works in us. The situation forecasted with heavy rain & the fact that there are dengue fever outbreak in the area was actually the complete opposite since the weather was sunny and there are no mosquitoes during the whole trip. I am amazed by how He heals and revive the broken souls--the youths of Maumere, who has been longing for joy and tranquility in Him.

Secondly, I learn to SURRENDER everything into His hands. I am assigned to lead one of the P&W sessions which actually need preparation beforehand. I wasn't prepared at all, since it was predicted to be moved to the next day. I doubt myself whether I'm really capable of doing it; with only short amount of time left, I immediately prayed and ask for His guidance. Afterwards, I was hearing that the session goes smoothly. I know for a fact that I am unable to do this without Him. Hence, when we kneel down before Him and ask the Holy Spirit to pour over us, we must believe that GOD will PROVIDE everything we need. We just need to do our best, trust Him and let Him take control.

Lastly, there is always a PURPOSE why God is calling us. Both when we are called to serve or when we are wounded. HE WILL DO HIS WORK WHEN WE HEAR HIS CALLING, all we need to do is to have an OPEN HEART and let Him in. Believe that blessings will overflow and miracles happen when we involve Jesus Christ in our lives. May God bless and guide us in every step of the way.

Jesslyn Yap
CFJ Member





I have never imagined I would go this far to serve God. In the first place, I was thinking, why do I need to help the people in Maumere? Aren't there people in need everywhere else? Why does serving Him have to be there? Carrying that curiosity, after long time pondering, I finally joined. I didn't tell this 'big' decision to anyone.

Later, I discovered my purpose is to experience Him more. I immersed myself into the activities and shared stories together with the youths there. I slowly found the answer. Seeing how the youths perceive God in their lives touches me. Living in modesty, they found God. On contrary, I feel I am the one whose faith is dull with mundane routines and never-ending ambitions.

One of the most graceful moments was during the Holy spirit session. I felt very connected and burst my tears hearing Him whispered that He understands the struggles, anxiety and fears I have. "Turn to Me and I will give you peace and comfort"

God has brought me this far and given me unexplainable joy in this trip. I am privileged to play a role in God's work.

Adeline Kusuma
CFJ Member



5 months ago today I committed myself to do more activities that will bring me closer to Him. When I heard about MMY trip, I signed up without thinking too long. I felt that as a calling for me to start serving, sharing, and praying for those in greater needs. And as the second day in Maumere passed, I felt so happy that I could finally do that.

What really hit me hard was the last day in Maumere, when all the CFJ and DC teams were called up front so that the participants and Romos could pray for us all. I thought I was going there to pray for them – it didn't occur to me that over 425+ people would lift their hands and pray for us! I truly felt their prayer. I didn't even realize I had tears in my eyes until the "Amen". The power of prayer is indescribable. It fills your soul and enlightens you from within. MMY trip is surely one of the life-changing experiences for me.

Jessica Callista
CFJ Member

I started this mission with doubt. I was wondering if I would be able to help / being helpful to the children at all, as we might have different life experiences.

When I was sitting in my group and hearing their stories, I couldn't help but to feel their deep pain and sadness; how they were desperately longing for Jesus and healing. I remembered a verse from Matthew 9:36 saying, "When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." I could finally understand how that verse feels like. At that moment, I felt like anything I do, even as small and as trivial I thought it was, it will be helpful for them.

My worries and ego of what if my words were not good enough, or what if my prayers were not helpful. I let go of all my worries and surrender myself to God.

I believe that God loves them very much and when I let Him channel whatever He wanted to say through me, all will be well.

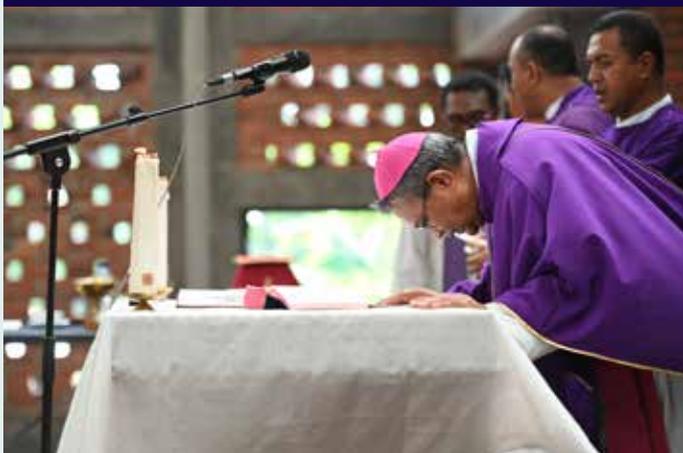
Anonymous

I want to share something quite moving for me. Our best tukang, Pak Slamet was the only one who single handedly put the bricks for the whole of St. Francis Hall, which we used for MMY. This, is because it had to be done delicately with the special angle for natural ventilation as we all can see.

He happen to overheard one of the talk while working outside the hall during the MMY. He told our builder that he was touched and moved to tears. He said that all religion points to the same merciful God. He had a wild life when he was young. Pak Slamet is a Muslim.

This reminds me of the Phoenician woman who said that it's enough to feed from the crumbs that fall from the master's table. God's work in and through us reaches to hearts beyond what we could ever imagine.

Fr. David Lemewu



When I first saw the mission trip announcement to Maumere, I felt like it was God that called me to join the trip which made me signed up immediately without even having a valid reason. BOOM, it happened. I didn't even have the time to think thoroughly about the trip.

After signing up, I was kind of regretting my decision. Am I doing the right thing? I signed up for a mission trip to Maumere (far away from Jakarta which I've never visited before), I only know 1 person in the CFJ, and this is my first time doing a service again after almost 3 years of absence. I can say the impulsive decision was kind of out of my comfort zone.

Long story short, it turns out that it was one of the best impulsive decisions in my life. Through this mission trip, I realized how far I was with God and how I missed Him in my life. Just like a song; I didn't know that I was starving till I tasted His power and warmth again. The mission trip was like an eye opener and a direct call from God for me to serve under His name again, which I will definitely do.

Anonymous



I remember the day Jess asked Bibfel team to join this Maumere 2020 trip in Mid January and uncharacteristically; I did not hesitate to text her "I'm in". It might have come from my deepest desire to serve Him, or myself wanted to practice what I preach about Response to God's Calling in which was the bible fellowship topic at that week.

In that Bibfel session, one point that struck me was the need of us to say YES immediately to His calling to serve, without questioning this or that. I did not have any expectations towards my first trip to Maumere other than what I heard from Maumere alumnus that the trip will be an "eye opener", "humbling experience" or as far as "life changing".

Days leading up to Maumere, was pretty excited yet nervous in preparing the teaching about Salvation. In the first place, I had no idea why I signed up to teach. But again, the spirit of immediately says YES to His calling played a part. I was personally touched by the support and prayers I received from fellow CFJ crew and DC and I firmly believe God's presence is obvious in each one of them; therefore, the concept of failure, doubt, or any anxieties were non existent.

Kevin Rahardja
CFJ Bible Fellowship

