

Philippine Clergy Nation-Building Seminar: Solving Youth and Family Problems

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In a crucial effort to address the moral crisis affecting young people and families, the Philippine Clergy Nation-Building Seminar was held on October 5, 2023, at the UPF Peace Embassy in Quezon City, Manila. Organized by the Pacific Christian Leadership Conference (PCLC), in collaboration with the Association of Christian Evangelists (ACE), the seminar brought together 59 religious leaders, government officials, and civic leaders from various Christian denominations. The theme for this impactful one-day event was "Together: Solving Youth and Family Problems."



The seminar began with uplifting songs of praise from the "Singing Bishops," followed by an opening prayer and the Philippine National Anthem. Archbp. Elias T. Soria, the National Coordinator of PCLC – Philippines, welcomed the guests, highlighting the urgency of addressing youth and family issues. A video message from Supreme Bishop Rene Ballenas, President of ACE – International, based in New Jersey, USA, followed, expressing gratitude for the initiative.

A PCLC introductory video presented its vision and activities since its inception two years ago, founded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Notable messages were delivered by Pres. Masaichi Hori, Chairman of PCLC – Asia Pacific, and Rev. Fr. Edgardo "Egai" De Jesus, underscoring the importance of family values and the role of religious leaders in society.

Rev. Fr. Egai De Jesus shared that many Christians are losing sight of the importance of the family.

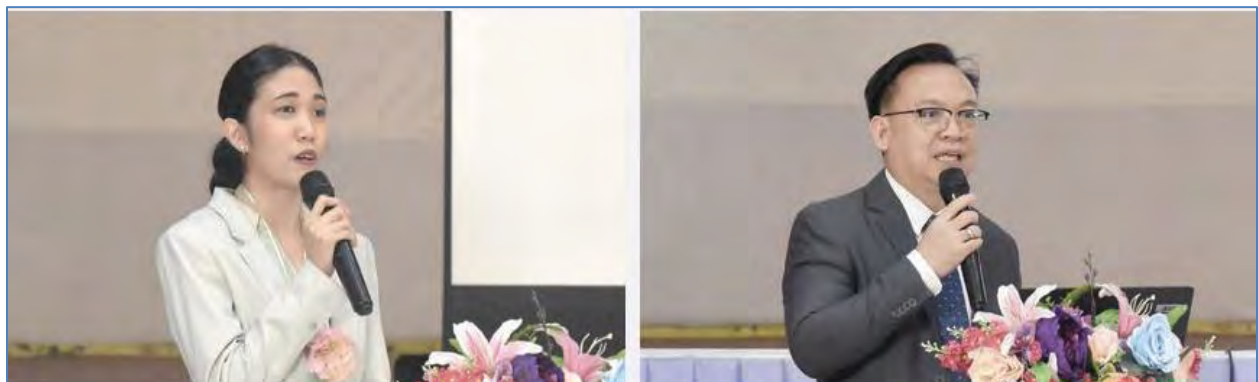
Recently, he attended the World Christian Leadership Conference event in Las Vegas, USA representing the Philippines and the PCLC. He was especially grateful to Mrs. Moon for giving biblically-based value to the family.

Dr. Robert S. Kittel, Co-Chairman of PCLC Asia Pacific, led an educational session on "Understanding the Heart and Nature of God" and "The Fall: Two Tragedies," offering deep insights into the nature of God and the biblical understanding of the fall of human ancestors and how these consequences still impact us today.



The program also highlighted Philippine initiatives with Dr. Leo Angelo Halog presenting national family-building activities and Rev. Ronnie Sodusta showcasing youth programs.

Ms. Leong Sil Rose Panuelos shared the success of Sun Hwa International Academy in promoting youth well-being. A planning session led by Dr. Julius B. Malicdem, Vice Chair of PCLC – Asia Pacific, focused on the role of religious leaders in realizing the vision of PCLC.



This led to a group discussion and the adoption of the PCLC Statement on Marriage and Family.

Bishop Joseph Lalo, PCLC Senior Adviser, called to action, resulting in 43 new pastors signing up for membership.

The seminar concluded with a symbolic joining of hands and singing of "Lord, Heal the Land," moderated by Rev. John Rhodbert Gregorio, Regional Director of PCLC in the National Capital Region. This gathering showcased the power of unity across different faiths, bringing hope and comfort to a nation. The seminar has empowered religious leaders to better address challenges faced by youth and families, marking a step forward in building a brighter future for the Philippines.

Reflections from a Participant: Bishop Christopher M. Canopen, Catholic Church of the East

"Today's seminar gave me so much which I did not expect. There's so much that we have to do to strengthen our families, keep our youth safe, and let them be aware of their role in society. As our Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal once said, "The Youth is the Hope of the Fatherland." They should be well guided and taught the importance of the family in the light of the scriptures."