

“Your Love Awakens Me, I Am Alive” 2017 HANCA Convention

by Kathleen Lor and Chang Moua Lor



Picture: Youth and young adult participants at the HANCA Convention held on July 14-16, 2017 at St. John's University, Collegeville, MN.

The Hmong American National Catholic Association (HANCA) convention, held every other year, invites Hmong Catholics from all over the United States to come together in order to explore their faith and culture.

Approximately 160 people coming from eight different dioceses attended the convention, which was held the weekend of July 14-16 at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota.

The convention's theme “Your Love Awakens Me, I am Alive” (Ezekiel 37:1-14) inspired the various workshops, prayer services, and worship. Some of the guest speakers were Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, and Deacon Michalak, who discussed the importance of faith and prayer.

Separated into two groups, the adults and youth members had different workshop schedules they followed throughout the weekend. The topics of these workshops ranged from forgiveness and God's Mercy to the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.



Picture: Banners used for the HANCA Convention.

In addition, Hmong Catholics had the opportunity to engage in charismatic prayer, a time of praise and worship that most members do not regularly engage in. Angela Lor, 18 and a member of the youth community at HANCA, said, “Although I was hesitant at first, it [charismatic prayer] allowed me to connect with others who freely expressed their faith and, as a result, made me experience God in a different light.”

The convention concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist and an election of a new



Picture: A youth group performing and singing during the Convention.

HANCA president who will lead for the next four years. Chang Lor assumed as the new HANCA president and spoke to the community about his brief plans and hopes. Speaking in Hmong directly to the youth and

young adults in the auditorium, he said, “You guys are the future of the Church, so bring

everyone you know—your friends, your family, your acquaintances. I believe that you [youth and young adults] can lead and organize without the help of the respected previous generation. You are the future.”