

# *Sisters of Social Service*

*Rooted in the social teachings of the Church, we are sent to be pioneers*



**Celebrating 90 years of**  
working with and supporting  
people on the margins of our  
world through social services  
and advocacy

## **Summer Day Camps in the Philippines: Amadeo and Paliparan** By Jamey Fitzpatrick

**Sisters of Social Service started their partnership with the people of the Philippines more than 20 years ago.** Ministries in both cities offer a multitude of direct social services for families and children in their area. Sisters in Amadeo and Paliparan both host their own versions of Summer Day Camps for hundreds of children and teens each spring. This year's theme was ***Communion of Communities***, highlighting the strong ties and unity between the many local neighborhoods and cities where the youth come from.

### **Amadeo**

**Sisters of Social Service in the Philippines just finished a wonderful, packed Summer Day Camp session - with more than 400 children and 23 teens in Amadeo.** The week before camp they provide Catechetical training and a day of reflection and recollection for local teens and young adults who help as volunteers.

Many of these teens are former campers, and some are from the ***Scholars Program***. This program offers youth without the financial means to attend college the ability to attain professional training and supports them as they achieve their goals.



Sr. Vangie writes, "Our summer day camp is a place where children have a chance to enjoy themselves, build their faith and service to others. Especially for those living in poverty - during camp they also get to let go of their worries and just experience all the joys of being a child."

As a continuation of day camp, throughout the year Sisters and volunteers meet with former campers on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at their home parishes. Each session is 2-3 hours and highlights and explores the Church's theme for that week or month. This ongoing connection helps integrate faith and values into their daily lives.

In creating the curriculum for the Summer Day Camp, year-long Religious Education, and the ongoing connection with young adults, Sisters are constantly integrating new ways of reaching out and incorporating creative approaches for fostering learning.

The Sisters are blessed to be a part of the faith formation for the children of Minantok East and West, Bucal, Maymangga and Nasugbu.

Each year, the Sisters of Social Service in Amadeo serve more than 1,000 people through their ministries at the Formation House: providing vocations training for the Sisters of Social Service, the summer day camp, children's groups, Religious Education in public schools, academic support and scholarships for teens, and other social services.



**Below are a few pictures from their adventures during camp this year!**





## Paliparan

**Sisters of Social Service host a Summer Day Camp in Paliparan that is a collaboration between many different parish communities in an urban area in Cavite.**

Each year, they serve approximately 900 children and 50 teens and camp usually lasts for several weeks. Local youth are involved in a variety of leadership projects, creative and liturgical activities and other enrichment. Three different parishes participate in the experience - sending youth from 5 to 13 years old.

**2017 also marked the camp's 20th Anniversary!** A special celebration was planned this year focusing on 3 Saturdays of camp where campers participated in theatre and music, art and sports and games. There was a culminating parade through the streets and an open house reunion for past and present campers and counselors to share their stories. Many of those present talked about how the camp had changed their lives.



**Please look for a longer story on the history of our Summer Day Camp and reflections from campers and counselors in our next e-news.**



Excerpt from our Sisters of Social Service E-news – May 2017

Sisters of Social Service

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