

“HOLY CROSS” SCHOOL

KIBLAWAN (PHILIPPINES)

P. Efren Mundoc. Sch.P. Director



My name is Efren Boot Mundoc, a Filipino Piarist. I am a school director and teacher. I teach four to five hours of classes every day from Monday to Friday at Holy Cross of Kiblawan, Inc., an institution that offers Junior and Senior High School. I have been working at the school for almost seven years since 2016.

I am proud of my work as director and teacher in this private Catholic school that belongs to the Diocese of Digos. A small and humble school that has about 663 students. I work here with so many challenges on how to bring education to the poor families who live in the mountains, and also with regard to the changes that have been made to the Philippine Educational System over the years. Anyway, we have always to find ways to convince and motivate the children that education is very important to improve the situation of their

lives.

I am contented as director in the sense that the Christian philosophy, vision, mission and goal of the school have been realized and brought to those young people who are really in need.

The school

The Holy Cross of Kiblawan, Inc. was founded by the Pretres de Missions Etrangeres (PME) congregation. It is located at the town of Kiblawan, in the province of Davao del Sur, Philippines. It serves a mostly poor or humble population of about 49,381 inhabitants. The school receives a small amount of an annual subsidy from the Philippine government of at least 155. 172.00 euros (9,000.00 pesos) per student of the Junior High, from grade 7 to grade 10. The Senior High student also receives 301. 724.00 euros (17,500.00 pesos) every year.

Our school differs itself from other public and private schools because of its commitment to foster Christian values, give importance to human discipline and above all, cultivate the Piarist charism through education - educating the children and youth by giving special attention to those most in need. It is in this way that the school faithfully promotes a holistic or integral education.

Challenges

The weakest aspects of the school are as follows:

- a. The integration of Christian values in the different subjects;
- b. The Piarist training and formation plan for the faculty and staff;
- c. The exodus of teachers in and out of the school...

The problem of the exodus of teachers haunts the school administration every year. It gives us the difficulty to continue to offer quality education to the students, and quality formation and training for the faculty and staff, since they only usually work at the school for just one or two years.

The main reason of these departures has been the low salary that the school can offer them, which is actually much less than what public schools offer. For example in this year 2023, a new and first year teacher in the public schools receives a salary of 458.404 euros per month (27,000.00 pesos/month), while a Piarist teacher only receives a salary of 178.268 euros per month (10,500.00 pesos/month).

Thus, our school has been considered as an educational space where new teachers are trained, and that later on will leave to work in the public schools.

Pastoral

Over the years since we took over the administration of the school, we have been working a lot in the pastoral care of the Church. I remember that there was a time in the school's history when the subjects of religion were not given or taught well in the school for lack of prepared religious and lay people to carry out this core task of the Catholic teachings.

Hence, our central focus these years has been to revive the Catholic teachings, and to try that our students will have to value the religion subjects, in order to strengthen their faith and to be able to confront the challenges that the world presents to them in their daily lives.

For seven (7) years now we have been integrating the Pastoral project into the school's educational project in a gradual way, because this school has had long histories with some established traditions and charisms

that came from the four different religious congregations of fathers and nuns who administered the school for more than fifty years. So, we have to slowly integrate the Piarist charism and present ourselves as new administrators of the school.

Nevertheless, there is a primary need to re-orient the Filipino Piarist religious, because not all of us know, understand and assume the pastoral project of the Order, in particular the educational project of the Piarist schools. We are only good at doing parish ministry, because we are used to that kind of apostolate that we do actively in the parish with the group of youth, since we were young.

I would also like to underline some of the projects that we have done throughout these years, which motivate us to continue working. Believing that we will achieve more in these pastoral projects of the Order, if we carry out our tasks with profound patience, because as I have said, this has not all been easy to do in a new province like Asia Pacific. The following projects are as follows:

1. The Calasanz Movement that we have already integrated into the educational project of the school, as one of its complementary activities that we do every Saturday with the students. And every year, each student is obliged to contribute a small amount for these activities.

2. The Solidarity Campaign of the Itaka Foundation, which is already highly valued by all the members of the school. Every year we do a local and international solidarity campaign in the school and in the parish, and the money raised from this campaign will be sent to the Itaka foundation.

3. The Ongoing Formation of the faculty and staff, particularly on Calasanzian Spirituality which we have scheduled once a month.

4. The creation of a group of Participation and Shared Mission in the school and in the parish. Although the group is not so active yet, but at least we have already started little by little to create and form a small group of teachers and parishioners. The members of the participation are also the catechists of the Calasanz Movement groups, and are also active in helping the solidarity campaign.

5. The Continuous Prayer that we have also started recently with the students from grade 7 to grade 12. Perhaps, we do it in a different way from what we usually do with the little ones in our elementary schools. However, we have discovered that with these ages (from 13 to 18) we can also do something similar, which they really love.

6. The Eucharistic celebration every Friday which is participated by both Catholic and non-Catholic students, all together in the Church for the celebration.

These are the projects that we have been doing, that little by little we continue to innovate in the pastoral, of course, being faithful in the integration of the projects of the Order.

My passion

I am passionate about all the projects of the Order, because they are projects that promote the Calasanzian identity. They are significant projects that mark how we do, live and identify ourselves as Piarists in the world.

Personally, I have to dedicate cultivating these projects in myself, and manifest how I live them in my community and province. Since I cannot share these projects to others without first realizing them into my life. Only in this way I could say that I am already passionate about these projects of the Order, and I feel the need to do them in my community and province. However, I cannot do it alone, instead I need to work with a team who believes in the importance of collaborative work to ensure that these projects will be realized and will multiply with good fruits. Therefore, each one has to learn to work in a team, in order to realize together these passionate projects wherever we are and wherever we live.

Every day, I consider this as a great challenge that I am passionate about. How to make these projects of the Order could have an important value and place in the mind and heart of each Piarist. I believe that each one should be convinced that only as a team we can do more things for the community, for the province and for the Order.

Educational innovation

Some of the pedagogical experiences that we have been doing and that are part of the academic program, are as follows:

Academic Experiences:

Academic Remediation Program.

This program is designed for students who have had problems in their academic studies. Those students who have received low grades, failed in the periodical examinations, and didn't submit their performance tasks will be recorded. Then they have to do the remedial work with the help of the principal and the academic coordinator in order to pass the subjects.

Programa Tutorial (Tutorial Program)

This program is designed for students who have difficulties in English, Science and Mathematics. This aims to reinforce students to gradually get on with their classes. We dedicate the third and fourth Friday of the month to this program, spending the entire day so that they would learn something from their subjects.

Reading and Comprehension Program

We designed this program to respond to the particular needs of some students in the grade 7, who have difficulty in reading and understanding the texts. They are usually those poor students who live in small barangays and in the mountains, and who often miss classes to help their parents to work in their farms. We dedicate the third and fourth Friday of the month, spending the whole day for them to learn how to read and comprehend the lessons.

Journalism Program (Journalism Program)

The school has its annual publication of Kasikas (in Filipino) and Metanoia (in English), which are done by a group of students under the supervision of a coordinating teacher. We are hoping that in the next academic year we will be able to resume to publish some news updates about our school and other current events that are happening in the Philippines and in the world. This program was interrupted for two years during the pandemic. The trainings are done on the third and fourth Friday of the month.

And more programs like Compositional Writing, Literary Competition, Academic Training and Seminar for teachers, and Students' Teachers' Week.

Innovative Pastoral Programme

These are some of the innovative programs we do in pastoral ministry: Home Visitation Program of Students' families; Retreat or Recollection Program; Catechism Program for Elementary Grades; Retreat or recollection program for parents; Formation Program for Parents; Program on Vocational Formation and Encounter of Students and Teachers, and Environmental Program.

	KIBLAWAN (PHILIPPINES)	
	HOLY CROSS SCHOOL	
	Secondary and High School	
	Piarist: 8; lay educators : 19	
	8008 General Lim St, Kiblawan, Davao del Sur	
	hck.kiblawannew@gmail.com hck.kiblawannew@yahoo.com	
Calasanz Movement		





Grade 7 - Recollection



Grade 7 - Recollection



JHS Remediation



Solidarity Campaign Launching



Calasanz Movement - Sportsfest



Prayer Lay Participation during Solidarity Feastday



Calasanz Movement



Solidarity Launching



Senior High School Examination



Junior High School Examination



Bible Enthronement - CLE Class



Junior High School Examination



Teachers Seminar & Training



SBG & SGC Officers