

「FILIPINO GROUP Johokubashi Church」

Sr. Narie, FDNSC

Filipinos are everywhere! you can find them anywhere you go in Japan. Some of them even have their families here.

When I arrived in Japan, the first thing I experienced was WELCOME parties here and there. I was introduced by my co-Filipina sister to certain groups of Filipinos.



It was last July 27, 2005 when I met this group from Johokubashi parishioners and they organized a welcome and parting party to Sr. Leon, who was about to move to Fukui City. That event was a wonderful encounter with them. Their hospitality, smiles and kindness gave me reassurance that I am not alone. I felt finally at home because of them. They have become my Christian family, in which there is sharing of resources, presence and concern with each other. But above all, I was enriched by their presence and acceptance.

The days and months quickly went by that I initiated to organize a gospel sharing for the group. It was not an easy thing to do. I had to consult and ask them if they are willing to support the program. Thank God they were so supportive.

I humbly approached Fr. Makino, MSC the parish priest, about this program. His response was good and he was more than happy to support the group. He allowed us to use Room F for our sunday gospel sharing every fourth sunday of the month.

Why GOSPEL sharing? As we know, the mass is in Japanese so some could not understand the readings, so we decided to have deep reflections after the mass. Basically, there are two main reasons.

1. to deepen our understanding of the Word of God and relate it to our daily lives
2. to build a Christian community where in there is sharing, listening, support and acceptance

How I wish and pray that this will help us appreciate our FAITH better, and understand the need to be connected to each other inspite of differences.

We invite more people to join us. Everyone is welcome to be part of our community who joyously celebrate fellowship right after the sharing by sharing our own OBENTOS. PLEASE COME AND SEE...