Filipino Champions

Concert kicks off ‘House of Prayer Project’

Visiting nun helps raise funds for Verbum Dei apostolate center

BY GEORGE AND MELISSA WANG, TESS LEE

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SPECIAL TO THE MANILA TIMES

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"For You, I live; for them, I give; For You, I speak, for them, I believe...

Suzanne Meeheen

Suzanne Meeheen, who will perform in Dublin, Ireland and meet the Verbum Dei Community in the university where she was studying. In 1981, she joined the community and this year she will celebrate 33 years as a missionary. She completed her Licenciate in theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in the area of Fundamental Theology and Theological Ethics. After her studies she taught inCRT (Gregorian, University), United States (Berkeley, California) and currently she is teaching theology at the Australian Catholic University in Brisbane.

One of her main interests is the role of music in evangelization. She reflects, "I think we are quite aware of the importance of words in Christian faith—mission and theology—but the power of music is less understood and, therefore, not always well-used. Going deeper she continues, "In Christian faith, the Word becomes and something of that Someone we believe in can be communicated through words, but music is also a human form of expression and it expresses Christ in ways words can’t. Music is very powerful—it moves us. It teaches more than our minds and hearts, but our whole person—body, feelings, and understanding—because it is rooted in an unchanging God. This is important."

The desire to fully grasp the role of music in the expression and transmission of faith drives her research at ACU as well. "I am on a quest to understand how we make sense of music, and the power of music in faith and theology, in helping us encounter with and encounter with God in our lives and with the lives of others, and bring us closer to God."

She commented, "It has been a pleasure to perform in Manila and with such talented musicians. The welcome and reception of my music was so warm.

One of the highlights of the concert is the performance of the Verbum Dei community’s Ten Lee expressed her experience of the event in this way,"I always love singing and playing with my church and friends."

But what if the concert ends all of this? Our prayers pass away and music seems to be forgotten? What if we lose sight of the richness of the words and music that we use in our prayers? This concert, however, is a reminder of the power of music in our lives and the role it plays in our faith.

Through our songs, God listens and He answers. Thank you, Sr. Meeheen for a night of music that inspires, engages, and transforms.

Suzanne Meeheen said she is excited about the upcoming concert and the venue, saying, "It is a wonderful opportunity to share my love for music and the faith we believe in."

The concert is scheduled for January 31 at the Albertus Magnus Auditorium at the University of Sto. Tomas. Visiting nun helps raise funds for Verbum Dei apostolate center.