



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

EPISCOPAL COMMISSION ON YOUTH

ENDORSEMENT

... [T]he youth are invited to make an inward journey, that is, to go to the place where God can meet them—in their hearts. We as their ministers, therefore, should provide occasions where young people can be silent... where they can commune with others and with God (KA-LAKBAY, p. 78).

I wholeheartedly endorse the **Christian Meditation Conferences** organized by the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) Philippines, especially to our young people and youth ministers.

These Conferences, which will both take place as we come to the conclusion of our CBCP Year of the Youth, aim to benefit our young people and to enrich our youth ministry. The first, **The Contemplative Executive** on *06 December 2011 (Tuesday)*, is prepared particularly for young professionals (blue and white collar), formands, and other young people eager to develop contemplation towards a fuller life; the other, **Stillness in Schools**, is on *07 December 2011 (Wednesday)*, to cater to educators (government and sectarian) and parents. Both will be facilitated by the **Rev. Fr. Laurence Freeman, OSB**, WCCM Director, and held at the Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord at the SM Megamall in Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

I look at these Conferences as opportunities to live our cry this Year of the Youth to *stand firm in the faith and do all our work in love* [cf. 1 Cor 16:13-14], with contemplation as the way. Looking beyond this special year for our young people, these Conferences remain relevant and helpful for us in the youth ministry in our desire to cultivate prayer among the young, *as it nurtures the relationship with Christ, he who is the foundation of Christian life* (KA-LAKBAY, p. 132).

I therefore call on those responsible for youth ministry: in the dioceses and member-organizations of the Federation of National Youth Organizations (FNYO), as well as those in youth ministries in parishes, campuses and other settings, to come to these conferences and be filled in our desire for fullness of life in Christ through the way of contemplation. This is a fitting follow-up to our National Youth Day 2011 this 14-19 November 2011. I also personally call on each young person—studying, working or still searching—to avail of this opportunity: This could be a light in your journey towards true joy and lasting fulfilment.

I pray that each of us grow stronger in our relationship with Christ.



+ **JOEL Z. BAYLON, DD**

Bishop of Legazpi

Chairman of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Youth

07 November 2011